

SOCIAL EUROPE

**The social integration
of disabled people**

SUPPLEMENT 7/86



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EMPLOYMENT,
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION**

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SOCIAL EUROPE

DOSSIER : THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

CONTENTS OF THE DOSSIER		Page
I	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
I, 1.	The Foundations of the Commission's action in Favour of disabled people	1
2.	Signposts in the Commission's programme	3
3.	The Scope and Structure of the Dossier	4
II	<u>TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT</u>	
II, 1.	The Community Network of Rehabilitation Centres	5
2.	The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)	11
3.	The Council Recommendation on the Employment of disabled people in the European Community	12
4.	The interventions of the European Social Fund	15
III	<u>INDEPENDENT LIVING</u>	
III, 1.	A Favourable environment	16
2.	The Commission's housing programme for disabled people	18
3.	A European Card for disabled people	21
4.	Leisure	22
4.1	The Arts	22
4.2	Sport	22

IV	<u>FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND BENEFITS</u>	
IV, 1.	Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Security	25
2.	Taxes and levies	30
V	<u>THE "GRASSROOTS"</u>	
V, 1.	The District Projects for the socio-economic integration of disabled people	32
2.	Other "grassroots" actions	37
2.1	Associations of and for disabled people	37
2.2	The Bureau's subvention programme to support European cooperation	38
2.3	Relations with Rehabilitation International	40
2.4	The Europrogramme of Mobility International	40
2.5	New departures : local authorities and social partners	41
VI	<u>INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION</u>	
VI, 1.	Handynet - the Community Information Network on Disability	43
2.	Audio and video	50
3.	Publications	51
4.	Liaison and contact groups	53
VII	<u>NEW AREAS OF INTEREST</u>	
VII, 1.	The integration of young handicapped into ordinary schools	54
2.	The new technologies	58

VIII ANNEXES

VIII, 1.	Subventions 1985	
1.1.	Subventions for European Cooperation	61
1.2	Grants for housing projects	65
2.	Information notes	
2.1	Subventions for European Cooperation	67
2.2	Grants for housing projects	69
3.	Network Lists	
3.1	The Rehabilitation Centres	72
3.2	The District Projects	74
3.3	The European and International non-Governmental Organizations	77
3.4	The Rehabilitation International European Secretariats	80
3.5	The Handynet "Family"	82
4.	General Publications	
4.1	Policy Documents	86
4.2	Studies	88
4.3	Articles in Social Europe	90

I INTRODUCTION TO THE DOSSIER

I, 1 THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTION

IN FAVOUR OF DISABLED PEOPLE

SOCIAL EUROPE has always been kind to those of us who work in the Commission's Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People ; a list of Social Europe articles about our programme is given in the Annex to this Dossier (VIII, 4.3). But of course we specially welcome this opportunity to present our programme as a whole.

As early as 1974 the Council adopted a Resolution establishing an initial action programme to promote the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped. The period from then until 1981 was a useful and formative one which saw above all the establishment of the Community Network of Rehabilitation Centres (see II, 1) and the scheme of grants to support innovation housing projects (see III, 2).

The United Nations International Year of Disabled People in 1981 offered a unique opportunity for both a widening and a deepening of the Community approach to the problems of disability. All the institutions responded - the Parliament with a Resolution in March of that year, the Economic and Social Committee with an opinion in July, and the Commission in October with a communication outlining a new action programme which was adopted by the Council in December.

At every level there was a willingness to break out from the restraints of merely economic considerations and to embrace all the aspects of social integration - indeed an insistence on the need to do this. As a consequence, it has been possible since 1981 for the Commission to comprehend within the framework of one programme the full range of factors which can contribute to the ideal of independent living - education, training, employment, social security and care systems, communications, mobility and housing to name the most obvious. For the first time the Commission has been able to follow the 'golden rule' in respecting the interdependence of the elements which make up the world of disability.

The programme itself pursues three main objectives :

- to encourage policy development, and wherever possible to take a lead in this by means of a planned series of policy initiatives ;
- to establish a Community-wide system for the acquisition and exchange of information on disability problems, using new technology for this purpose ;

- to promote and facilitate innovation, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of good practice, with particular attention to the activities of associations of disabled people, to the work of rehabilitation professionals, and to services and cooperations undertaken at local level.

It is important to stress that, in addition to this one programme of policy development, information and technical cooperation, there are other activities of the Commission of considerable importance to disabled people. Chief of these are the financial interventions of the European Social Fund, and a diversity of valuable initiatives in the fields of technological and medical research and development. There are in addition other relevant activities, for example in relation to transport, social security, taxation and the internal market. Though a number of these are mentioned in various articles in this Dossier it has not been possible to do them full justice here, in view of the diversity of activities within the programme itself which need to be described.

I, 2 SIGNPOSTS IN THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME
FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Jan 1974	Council Resolution establishing a Social Action Programme.
June 1974	Concil Resolution establishing an initial action programme on the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons.
July 1975	Commission Communication on the Elimination of Architectural Barriers and Mobility
Oct 1975	Launching of the Community's Network of Rehabilitation Centres
Jan 1976	Launching of the Scheme to Promote Improved Housing for Handicapped Persons.

1981 - International Year of Disabled People

March 1981	Resolution of the Parliament on the Economic, Social and Vocational Integration of Disabled People.
July 1981	Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Situation and Problems of the Handicapped.
Nov 1981	Communication of the Commission to the Council on the Social integration of Disabled People.
Dec 1981	Resolution of the Council on the Social Integration of Disabled People.
May 1982	Setting up of the Commission's Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People in DG V.
May 1983	Launching of the District Projects on Social Integration.
March 1984	Commission Workshop on the Employment of Disable People.
June 1984	Conclusion of the Council and Ministers of Education on the Educational Integration of Handicapped Children.
Sept 1984	Launching of the "Handynet Project" (Community Computerized database on disability questions).
Jan 1986	Communication of the Commission with draft Council Recommendation on the Employment of Disabled People in the European Community.
July 1986	Adoption of Employment Recommendation by the Council.

I, 3 THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS DOSSIER

In this dossier we have tried to present an overview of all the various elements of DG V's action programme to promote the social integration of disabled people, with some notice also of course of activities of the Commission which are important for disabled people but which are set elsewhere in the Social Action Programme or in the programmes of other directorate-generals.

The first three main sections (II - IV) focus on the themes for which the Commission is putting a stress on policy development as well as technical cooperation. So section II deals with Employment (Council Recommendation adopted in July 1986) and Vocational Training ; section III with the Physical Environment (policy initiative planned for 1987) ; section IV with Financial Problems and Benefits (possible policy initiative in 1988).

The second group of three main sections is concerned with themes where the main emphasis is on technical cooperation and project development. Section V "The Grassroots" covers the District Projects as well as our relationships with Non-Governmental Organizations and others. In Section VI we present "Handynet" and our other information activities, and in Section VII two more recent areas of interest, Educational Integration and the New Technologies.

The dossier is rounded off in Section VIII by a number of annexes giving reference material concerning programmes, contact groups and documentation.

Articles for which no author is given have been constructed by joint effort or contributed by

Patrick Daunt

II TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

II, 1 THE COMMUNITY NETWORK OF REHABILITATION CENTRES

Founded in 1975, the Rehabilitation Centres Network recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. What follows consists of three extracts from the special issue of the Network Journal produced to celebrate that occasion.

A full list of the present members of the Network is given in VIII, 3.1

1. The Network at a glance

Foundation

On June 27, 1974, the Ministers of the 9 EC-Member States agreed to a Resolution concerning an action programme for the disabled, thus creating the Community Network of Rehabilitation Centres.

The first meeting of the Network, chaired by Mr U. Vidali with the assistance of Mr A. Bennett was on October 20, 1975 at the Post Office Building in Luxemburg.

This meeting was attended by 21 directors of rehabilitation centres within the EC and a Working Party, consisting of Ministers' representatives of the 9 EC-countries.

Calendar of events

1975 - Initial meeting of Network - Luxemburg

1976 - Office of the Chairman of the Network, Mr U. Vidali, at the Batiment Jean Monnet in Luxemburg.

- Composition of guidelines for exchange-visits between centres.

1977 - Composition of guidelines for training of

- o multidisciplinary teams
- o vocational guidance staff
- o placement officers
- o directors and administrators

1978/- Start of exchange-visits between
1980 the Network centres.

1978 - Seminar held at Dortmund Centre.

1979 - Seminar held at Aalborg.

- 1981 - During the International Year of the Disabled, Mr U. Vidali retired from the work of the Network.
 - December 8 : The EC-Ministers of Social Affairs agree to the foundation of the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People.
 - Seminar held at Bologna.
- 1982 - Start of research studies concerning amongst others : employment problems, training of disabled persons.
 - September : The directors of the Network centres meet their new Chairman, Mr P. Daunt, at the Bureau 's office in Brussels (DG V, Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People).
- 1983 - Creation of a number of Working Groups.
- 1984 - Greece joins the Network.
 - First edition of the Network Journal and the Network Directory.
 - Seminar in Athens.
 - Seminar in Bonn.
- 1985 - June : CEDEFOP-seminar with contribution of the Network in West-Berlin.
 - Seminar in Dublin.
 - October : 10th anniversary of the Network (29 centres out of the 10 EC-Member States).
 - Seminar in Amsterdam.

Objective

The objective of the Network is : "To encourage the development of, and exchange information on, new ways and means for vocational rehabilitation and the training of persons capable of applying them".

Outlook

- Anticipation of the Network being joined by centres from Spain and Portugal.
- Closer links with an outer Network of rehabilitation centres.
- Development of the employment market and the new technologies add a new dimension to the activities of the Network.

2. The Network, a Ten-Year Anniversary (article by Michael Green, director of the Birmingham Employment Rehabilitation Centre and Chairman of the Network Information working group)

The then Member States of the European Community in 1974 produced an official resolution on 27 June of that year relating to an action programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons.

This programme included : "the formation of a European Network of selected rehabilitation and training bodies in order to encourage the development of, and exchange information on, new ways and means for vocational rehabilitation and the training of persons capable of applying them".

This resolution was the initial term of reference for those Rehabilitation and Training Centres proposed by the Member States for inclusion into the Network, and the initial meeting of the persons in charge of those nominated Centers was held on 20 October 1975, in the Post Office Building, Place de la Gare, Luxemburg.

During the ten years of the Network a number of events, not least the dramatic rise in unemployment and economic problems within the Community, have had considerable effect upon its work at both Rehabilitation Centre and national level.

Nevertheless the International Year of the Disabled -1981- stimulated the European Communities Council of Social Ministers to agree on 8 December 1981 to direct the Commission to establish a "Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People", and in September 1982 the existing Network Centre directors met the head of Bureau to discuss not only Network activity but how the Network could positively support the Bureau's new programme of work. The Network had prior to 1981 actively developed study and staff training visits between Centres and had formulated guide-lines for rehabilitation staff training. The new Bureau with considerable support from participating Network Centre directors had within the three years of its life enhanced the awareness within Europe, as well as wider afield, of the problems of disabled people and it is developing unique initiatives such as Handynet and the District Projects Programme.

Within these years Greece has become a member of the Community and more recently Portugal and Spain have 'signed up' for membership. New membership means for the Network a wider participation and audience ; to that purpose we must ensure that in the next ten years we increase communication links to rehabilitation colleagues within and beyond the Network organisation. The Network Centre directory is already providing a useful information dossier on community rehabilitation and will prove invaluable to present the Network to new Network members, as well as other rehabilitation practitioners.

One further initiative to promote communication links is the Network Journal which has evolved from the Network's Information Group. The Journal, of which this is a special tenth anniversary issue, is printed three times a year as a special exercise by disabled people with editorial control from the Information Group, highlighting various aspects of rehabilitation activity.

Looking to the future in this brief anniversary note the Information Group is to consider how new technologies can support and extend the message of Network activity to a wider audience ; in that respect we seek the active participation of all rehabilitation organisations, and related colleagues in CEDEFOP.

Network Centres and their directors have changed during the last ten years. In spite of the changes one common bond has remained from that first meeting in Luxemburg, namely : whatever the future shape, size or membership of the Network, it will always have the integration of disabled people into society as its primary and most important task.

3. From the Foundation of the Network in 1975 to the conception of it in 1985 (article by André Storm, technical director of the Functional Rehabilitation Centre of the Queen Fabiola Clinic, Charleroi)

1974 : a structured, rigid Network, a "mixture" of centres with their own actions, their conceptions, their decisions, but all are a part of a stage of the disabled persons' socio-economic integration, with one common aim : reintegration.

The Community Program of Action for Disabled Persons' Vocational Rehabilitation was adopted by the Council on 14 June 1974. This program includes notably some activities promoted by the Commission : "Activities of the European Network of Functional Rehabilitation and Training Centres, the aim of which is to increase the training capacity of the structures for disabled persons and persons dealing with them..."

Network structures

The C.E.C. Official Journal of 9/7/74 specified, at page nr. C/80/31 :

"...a real and unique attitude for placement.

Co-operation between the rehabilitation and training centres, chosen to encourage the setting up of new methods and means of vocational rehabilitation, exchange of information about those methods and means, as well as the training of the persons who are able to apply them. Some of the best rehabilitation and training agencies in the Member States will be invited to form a European Network and to become consequently the strong points of the Community co-operation.

They will be :

- 1) training centres where the methods, programmes and levels are appropriate for disabled persons ;
- 2) centres having the competency for vocational training for disabled persons who no longer have to undergo a medical treatment full-time ;
- 3) post-hospital rehabilitation centres particularly competent in work adaptations.

They will be chosen by the Commission on the basis of proposals made by the Member States, taking into account the value of the methods used, their willingness to respond and their role as promoters..."

The Network has had ever since a strength, but a myriad strength with one or more facets of the social and economical integration, aiming at a better vocational training and a more adequate placement.

From year to year, the structures came nearer each other and some links were created, finally reaching the integration of two or three units.

The action of the Network is important, notably with the creation of a multidisciplinary team and the contents of evaluation of work capacity, ensuring in that way the harmonization of the structures, the improvement of the techniques and spirit, the conception of the right to differences and of the rehabilitation concept : a man, a life, a unique process ; early treatment, progressiveness, continuity and globality being very important characteristics.

The composition of the multidisciplinary team, where the disabled person is the central nucleus, changes in accordance with the operational structure and with the various members' training. Evaluation of work capacity takes on particular dimensions during well structured stages, successive and interconnecting : intensive observation, evaluation of work capacity through simulated working conditions, evaluation of learning capacity.

From a rigid structure found at the creation of the Network, we have progressed to dynamic structures and concepts - such has been the impact of ten years of activity.

Every structure in rehabilitation must be a place in which the disabled person can acknowledge his/her deficiency and confront it. All structures must use a pedagogy of success and mastery.

Rehabilitation is certainly a way of restructuring the personality around the deficiency : rehabilitation measures - including vocational ones - do not accomplish this, they can only make it easier or more difficult (Dr Ficzelewics).

During these last ten years, we have often been trying, in one way or another, to share our best experiences and the comparison of our differences has enriched us.

Has one considered that the modern strength is the ability of invention? For the majority our need for innovation has always borne in mind a continuous adaptation and progression in our concepts.

We must all fight against the time passing by for the future of the European Network and not forget that the problem of today is tomorrow.

4. The Network's Tenth Birthday : A look at the future (article by Patrick DAUNT, head of the Commission's Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled people)

When in '81 the new programme to promote the social integration of disabled people was set up there was - inspite of the encouraging words of the Council Resolution - some feeling of general doubt about the Network's future.

I do not think anyone would have such doubts now. The Network has succeeded in intensifying its exchange activity and in developing its contribution to policy formation at Community level. Above all, it has broken through the communication barrier by means of the Journal. Without doubt the most effective professional grouping for intensive co-operation in the field of rehabilitation in the world, the Network has always had a message ; now it also has a voice. Closely related to this advance has been the establishment of the

concept of the Outer Network, intended to comprise ultimately all the rehabilitation centres in the European Community. By this mean we are meeting the invitation of the Council to develop the Network's structure in order to optimize its effectiveness in disseminating good practice, stimulating discussion and enabling "feedback" to the Inner Network, the national authorities and the Commission.

Yet the strenghtening of the Network's position since 1981 goes more deeply than that. What has happened is that the Network has established its position as an essential and integral part of the whole programme to promote the social integration and autonomous living of disabled people, and therefore of the social action programme of the Community. Vocational training, the fight against unemployment and the impact of the new technologies are issues of major priority in the Community and the Network is fully engaged in all these.

It is in this integrated context that we should reflect on the future of the Network in a positive and creative spirit, recognizing that, while much has been achieved, the unique character of the Network means that we must set our sights high and accept that there is still much more in our mandate and our potential which we have not yet brought to reality.

For this reflection there is a dynamic as well as a structural context. The next action programme on behalf of disabled people must be in full swing by 1988, with 1987 as "hinge" year (final reporting of the first programme, active preparation of the second) ; this means that we must set about the fundamental preparation for the new program in 1986 - quite soon, in fact.

What proposals shall we want to make for the development of the Network in the period 1988-1992 ? One obvious priority will be the integration of Spain and Portugal into the full life of the Network, in order both to benefit from their experience and to support their efforts in rehabilitation. We need also to reflect on whether we give enough attention to the various needs of the different disabilities experienced by our clients, and indeed whether the Network needs to be expanded to represent more adequately certain important disabilities - for example those resulting from sensory impairments.

Our specific work on key themes such as assessment, integration and new technologies will no doubt continue ; but other important issues will demand our attention - the extent to which women have an effective equality of opportunity in rehabilitation, for example, and the increasing importance of the client's active role in planning and implementing his rehabilitation programme. The positive relationship between sheltered employment and rehabilitation is another vital question, and we must carry forward the discussion we have just begun on how to animate and coordinate the contribution that Network members (not the Network itself as an institution) may be able to make to the rehabilitation needs of developing countries.

The next nine months are therefore an important and exciting time for the Network and all its members. I hope you will be able to carry the discussion right down to the grass roots of your centres to maximise the participation of your professionals and your clients in our joint effort, in partnership with the Liaison Group, to make the best of the development opportunity which awaits us.

II, 2 THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
VOCATIONAL TRAINING, BERLIN (CEDEFOP)

The interest of CEDEFOP in the vocational rehabilitation of disabled people goes back beyond the International Year of 1981. Issue N° 2, 1980 of the CEDEFOP Journal "Vocational Training" was devoted to The Vocational Training of the Handicapped ; as well as a number of articles on specific themes it contained extremely useful brief descriptions of the vocational rehabilitation systems in the majority of the then Member States. Not long after this, CEDEFOP began to put together documentation dossiers concerning activities in the vocational rehabilitation field at national and Community levels.

It is however only recently that CEDEFOP has included the vocational training of disabled people as an item in its formal work programme. It was in this context that in 1985 CEDEFOP organized and hosted on the Commission's behalf a first meeting of representatives of the social partners to discuss the training and employment problems of the disabled (see V, 2.5).

At the same time CEDEFOP launched its own first activity in this field. The work is focussing on training aimed at new forms of employment for disabled workers - cooperatives, for example, sheltered industrial groups, sheltered workshops where important innovation is under way. The collection of European data in this crucial area, and the conclusions to be drawn from the analysis of them will make a valuable contribution to the practical follow up of the Recommendation on Employment which is described in the next section.

II, 3 THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF

DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

On 24 January this year the European Commission submitted to the Council of Ministers a Memorandum and Draft Council Recommendation on the Employment of Disabled People in the European Community. This is the first true instrument specific to disabled people that the Commission has ever put forward ; it is moreover intended to be the first in a series of policy initiatives which the Commission will undertake within the framework of its action programme to promote the social integration of people with disabilities ; the next, already well on the way, will concern the physical environment - housing, access, mobility and leisure ; the third will cover the problems of benefits and incomes.

The Commission's initiative can be presented under four heads : its national context first ; then its basis, the approach and method adopted in preparing it ; thirdly its content and structure ; finally - and of course much more tentatively - the prospect for its influence and impact.

When we review the national context within our until recently ten, now twelve, Member States, the outstanding feature which emerges is the contradiction between commendable effort and generally somewhat disappointing and now deteriorating results. Quota systems for the employment of disabled people operate in very various forms in ten of the Community countries ; in spite of their rather unconvincing track record, no government is known to be envisaging abolition, and at least three have proposals for improvement. Incentive schemes for employers are well devised and operated in a number of countries, as are public or private services of guidance, placement and follow-up. Creativity is being applied to the enhancement of sheltered workshops and to the invention of new more flexible employment modes such as mixed cooperatives and supported industrial posts or groups. Many countries have highly developed provisions for vocational rehabilitation and are showing imagination in adapting course methods and course contents to meet changing employment patterns, notably in relation to new technologies. Yet for all this effort, we have to admit that even before the present economic constraints the achievement, as Paul Cornes has shown in his recent World Rehabilitation Fund study, fell far short of our hopes. Now disabled people are caught in a double bind of scarce jobs and reduced services, and faced with the prospect of a decline in their situation and opportunities which may prove irreversible.

The counterattack which we must mount in response to this predicament should in the Commission's view have two characteristics : it should be based on a consumer-oriented approach, and it should be comprehensive in its scope. That, in addition to these two requirements, its components should be found in Member States or elsewhere may be taken for granted.

In developing its proposals the Commission has endeavoured to take a consumer-oriented approach in two complementary ways.

First, the Commission has given an important rôle to the European and International associations of disabled people in the fact-finding, opinion-sounding and consultation processes which have led up to the formulation of the proposals. This has been done by encouraging the associations to include employment problems in their own activities for which Commission financial support is requested, inviting them to submit written position papers on the employment issues and affording them an important part in the multi-representative workshop which formed the climax of the discussion phase.

Secondly the Commission has endeavoured to protect itself from being over influenced by one administrative, legal, political or academic viewpoint by consulting also a wide range of professionals, representatives of the social partners and national and local government officials, as well as entrusting its studies to experts offering a variety of disciplines. This has helped the Commission to structure its own final analysis as a set of answers to simple questions concerning the positive and negative factors in the general situation and in the employment situation of people with disabilities. By taking consumer needs and consumer potential as the main starting points for the whole proposal, the Commission intends to show that its initiative is an integral element in developing Community social policy, and that "social policy" here means what the man in the street would expect it to mean and is not the mere tool of something else.

Equally important, in the Commission's view, is the need for comprehensive scope. An adequate employment policy cannot consist of, or rely too heavily on, one or two fundamental measures, such as quota legislation ; whatever we may think of quotas - and the Commission believes that if they are flexibly applied they have a valuable contribution still to make - what is clear to everyone is that they are not a panacea. A wide range of interdependent measures is therefore required in or close to the employment sector itself, comprehending for example incentives to employers, guidance and placement services, new employment modes and both innovation in training contents and methods as well as extension and upgrading of training provision. But that is only half the story : at the heart of the Commission's view is also the belief that employment and training measures for disabled people will not work without a whole set of parallel initiatives in other fields - concerning the physical environment and social security systems evidently, but also the education of the general public, the promotion of research, the development of information systems and the making of substantial headway in normalizing the participation of disabled people in the development and implementation of policies.

A perception of these two preoccupations - with the consumer orientation and with comprehensive scope - is the key to the structure and content of the Commission's proposal. As well as the normal Memorandum and the draft Recommendation itself, our Communication contained a longer Analysis which reveals the sole foundation of the proposal - a consideration of the situation of disabled people as presented to us by them and by those who work with and for them. In addition there is, closely and explicitly attached to the Recommendation, a Model Code of Positive Action. This has made it possible to achieve a reasonably comprehensive coverage of the essential supportive and environmental questions I have just mentioned, while enabling a conventionally rather brief Recommendation to concentrate on principles and fundamental measures of anti-negative and positive

discriminations, including a flexible European Community approach to the future of quotas.

The draft Recommendation, supported by the Parliament on the condition that the Commission strengthened its proposals in regard to quotas, was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs on 24 July of this year (1986). In the event the Council, as well as weakening the terms in which the link between the Recommendation and the Model Code (now called a Framework) are expressed, diluted the Commission's proposal concerning the "threshold" definition of the size of firms liable to the quota and did not accept the Parliament's proposal for a uniform Community quota of 5 %.

It is not sensible to assume that the most controversial item in a proposal is necessarily the most important one. The Council's modification will only appear critical to those who believe that quotas are the be-all and end-all of a disabled people's employment policy. This, as has been made clear above, is not the Commission's view ; anyone who does not perceive that has failed altogether to understand the Commission's proposal.

A last word, then, of prospective. A problem for a writer presenting a proposal for which he is himself responsible is that it can be difficult to avoid giving the impression that he believes the document has no faults. In reality the proposal is of course very far from perfect ; moreover it has been, and will be, criticized at a fundamental level - the Commission, it has been said, should have put forward not a Recommendation but a Directive establishing superior law in the fully juridical sense. It was not an easy choice. We believe that only a Recommendation will enable us to make reasonably quick headway over a wide range of issues - the point about comprehensive scope comes in here again. We also believe that this does not involve "selling the fort", since it will be open to the Commission to prepare a Directive of Directives later on concerning specific issues where Member States may have failed to respond.

Meanwhile, our belief is that the combination of political and technical strengths in the proposals adopted by the Council will ensure that it is interpreted and exploited by disabled people and their friends throughout our Member States as a first affirmation, a foundation-stone on which a true European Community policy for disabled people will in the years ahead be built.

II, 4 THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

This Dossier cannot evidently give details about all the interventions, over the years, of the European Social Fund. Nevertheless no section concerned with the training and employment of disabled people could be at all complete without an indication of their importance.

Financial support to national projects for the vocational training of disabled people, and for the adaptation of working posts, has been a significant and integral part of the activity of the European Social Fund for a number of years. The impact of this support has been widespread, but particularly important in countries or regions where the economic problems are particularly severe. Many of the establishments which are members of the Network of Rehabilitation Centres (see II, 1), and all the District Projects (see V, 1) have benefitted from this financial assistance.

In 1984 (the most recent figures available) over one hundred million ecus were allocated by the Fund in grants to training and working post adaptation projects for disabled trainees and workers. In addition to that, a number of highly interesting projects, above all involving new technologies, were supported under that section of the Fund which supports specific projects of an innovatory character.

It is evident therefore that the potential of support which the Fund will be able to afford to the training and therefore employment of disabled people is very considerable, as it has been in the past - but, equally, that much will depend on the priority which is given to disabled people's needs at national level.

III. INDEPENDENT LIVING

III, 1. A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT

1. It has been seen (see II, 3) that the Commission's first policy initiative within the action programme was concerned with the Employment of Disabled People. Even here it was recognized that employment problems cannot be effectively dealt with in isolation. Successful employment initiatives depend on, among other things, satisfactory housing provision, adequate transport facilities and the accessibility of work places. The importance of this environmental support to employment policy is explicitly signalled in the Model Framework of Positive Action which is closely linked to the Employment Recommendation.
2. But the Commission believes that much more than that needs to be done at policy level on the environmental issues, and has therefore chosen "The Physical Environment" as the second theme for full treatment in its series of policy initiatives in the employment field.

The Commission perceives the environmental domain as comprising three principal fields :

- (i) Mobility, including mobility on the street as well as everyday and long-distance transport;
 - (ii) Access to public buildings and facilities;
 - (iii) Housing including as well as "bricks and mortar" material and personal aids to independent living.
3. The Commission is quite well advanced in its preparations for a policy initiative in these fields. We expect to be on schedule in submitting our Communication to the Council in 1987, certainly on Mobility and if possible on Access and Housing at the same time as well.
 4. Mobility - In Social Europe N° 3/86, we described the two policy studies which the Commission has completed and is now having translated and distributed ("Everyday Mobility" and "Travel and the Disabled", see list at VIII, 2). That article set these studies in the policy context just described, and stressed the value of collaboration with the Working Party on Transport and Disabled People of the European Conference of Transport Ministers (ECMT). It also mentioned the Consultation Workshop which the Commission will organize in December 1986. This Workshop,

as well as basing its discussions on the Commission's studies and the ECMT reports, will be able to draw on a major European Conference on this theme to be organized by the British authorities in the context of the UK Presidency of the E.E.C. The Commission will be able to set about active preparation of its proposals directly after the Workshop.

5. Access to public buildings and facilities may, out in many circumstances involve the same technical standards as does permanent housing, or similar ones; but it needs to be treated as a separate field since the public and private authorities to be influenced if progress is to be made are quite distinct. To prepare this element in its policy initiative the Commission has entrusted a study to the Netherlands Gehandicaptenraad. The study, which is being completed in 1986, will cover a wide range of problems, "public" facilities being interpreted as all facilities which are open to the public, not only those under public administration. All administrative offices of importance to disabled people are therefore included, but also all commercial premises (shops, banks, etc.) and all cultural, sports and other leisure facilities. Workplaces in the office sector are also covered in the study, given its great potential for the employment of disabled people but the special security problems which this employment entails.
6. Access and Housing will be the subjects of a Workshop which the Bureau will organize in the first half of 1987, on the same lines as the 1986 Mobility Workshop. On housing the information and experience which the Commission has acquired through the operation of its programme of subventions in the housing sector (see III, 2) is being complemented by a study on recent trends in policy and practice which is being prepared by the Instituut voor Volkshuisvestingsonderzoek in the Netherlands.
7. It must be emphasized that all this preparatory work on mobility, access and housing is being undertaken with one main purpose in mind - the launching by the Commission in 1987 of policy proposals covering the whole environmental field. The aim will be to achieve for the first time a political agreement which will validate ongoing technical work designed to produce common standards. At the same time the Commission will be exploring the possibility of extending its present housing subventions programme to cover other projects in the environmental domain including perhaps information and advisory centres for independent living, and also developing the environmental modules of Handynet (see VI, 1).
8. The following sections deal with some of the special current actions or interests of the Commission in the environmental field. Section III, 2 deals with the important and unique programme of subventions to support housing projects which the Commission has administered since 1976. The following sections are concerned with the idea of a European Mobility Card for Disabled People, and with developments related to leisure (arts and sport).

III, 2. THE COMMISSION'S HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Since 1976, the Community has made annual budgetary allocations available for projects for better housing for the handicapped, with a view to their social integration. Projects can include new construction of accommodation specially designed for the handicapped, or for a particular type of handicap, the adaptation of existing accommodation, including the provision of technical aids, the launching of information or advisory services, and measures contributing to the evaluation of the results of projects and their dissemination among a wider public.

The first pilot projects were designed to test European standards for accessibility. It was shown, fairly conclusively, that their inclusion would perhaps add 5% to the cost of new construction, while it would cost up to nine times as much to adapt existing buildings to conform. The adoption of these standards in a Recommendation of the Council of Europe may be seen as a success, even if, in practice, there was no way of monitoring or enforcing them.

After some years, the Commission has moved away from an exclusive focus on architectural barriers to the mobility of the physically handicapped. In the first place, growing experience had made it clear that the physically handicapped were a highly diversified group, ranging from the classic wheelchair case to the blind, the epileptic, those incapacitated by respiratory problems, with different housing needs. In the second place, it was recognised that the mentally handicapped and ex-psychiatric patients also had a problem of accommodation, but of another kind. For these people, the question of being physically accommodated could not be divorced from the larger question of the social environment, the degree of independence it should offer and the learning of those skills essential to normal domestic life. Economic and financial circumstances have forced governments and voluntary organisations to rethink established policies and patterns of institutionalised accommodation and care, to consider new and not necessarily professional forms of caring, to look more closely at the economics of modernisation and adaptation of the individual dwellings, where most handicapped people live and will probably have to go on living, and where they might well choose to live in any case.

Limited resources have placed a premium on relatively inexpensive projects, which, because of their inexpensiveness, can have a demonstrative value for areas of greatest need. Thus, there have been many variations on the common theme of independent living. The emphasis has been put on specific individual solutions to problems, which might appear banal enough to outsiders, such as simply enabling handicapped people to see out of their windows, but which seemed to defy solution, for example, because of problems of administrative co-ordination support services, new ways of using voluntary helpers or the young unemployed to help the handicapped individual maintain his dependence under tolerable conditions.

Fortunately, more humane applications of new technology are available to help handicapped people to live and work with some degree of independence. One recalls a project for grouped housing with handicapped trained computer programmers, working on home terminals. There is another project for a group of people with severe respiratory problems, which have rendered them largely immobile and normally dependent on a breathing apparatus. Their solution has been to form a sort of commune, using modern electronics to control the details of domestic management, including the employment and payment of staff, dealing with individual crises by a combination of mutual help and recourse to emergency services. Leisure is employed in playing chess and writing computer programmes ! One thinks of the very active chairman of a housing association, totally paralysed physically except for the ability to move one finger, owning and running his own house as a hostel for other handicapped, battered wives, ex drug-addicts and various other long or short stay visitors. One can find handicapped architects, and even a handicapped judge.

Unfortunately, the challenge is not just that of finding optimal solutions - for optimal people ! Mass emigration of young handicapped to better housing and jobs in the electronic engineering industries - with or without home terminals - in the more prosperous regions of the Community is not really feasible. Somehow, the lessons of successful schemes have to be translated to fit the less promising background of other regions or countries. Solutions, once found, must eventually be marketable at acceptable cost, whether capital or operational, so that they can serve as models for areas of need as well as areas of relative economic success. This is a task for the practitioners themselves, who include architects, electronic engineers, medical consultants, administrators, and also for the governments of Member States and for the European Community, uniquely placed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information.

National approaches vary. There are different traditions, which determine attitudes to the question of protected versus independent living, different attitudes towards the family, different patterns of provision and co-ordination of medical, welfare and other support services, different levels of social prejudice against, say mentally handicapped people, different levels of sophistication.

There is no "one best way". Every Member State acknowledges the need to experiment and to be open to the experiments of them. In some countries, where they are only beginning, all projects are experimental. In other states, with the most complete provision, there are still new frontiers to be crossed, as they try to integrate young handicapped people into the social life of their generation, to give them the freedom of the city, so-to-speak. Other countries, less advanced in their social evolution, are taking only the first steps towards the re-integration of ex-psychiatric patients, others have to cope with acute problems of homelessness, where handicapped adolescents are rejected by their parents. The Community is privileged to take part in this learning process, sometimes actively encouraging the transfer of ideas from one Member State to another. In the Netherlands, for example, the Commission funded the introduction of a scheme for individualized accommodation linked with welfare services

along the lines of the successful British "Crossroads" schemes. A project for the setting up of a network of information on innovatory schemes in the various Member States has now been launched by the Commission.

Community action is necessarily small in scale in relation to the extent of need of an estimated 13 to 20 million handicapped Europeans. In the last analysis, the Commission's efforts may be judged by their success in helping to make more suitable housing available to those in greatest need. Much more could be done for mentally handicapped adolescents and their families at the critical stage which follows the end of compulsory education, critical for the learning of living skills, for job training, for avoiding admission to long-term care, usually quite inappropriate as a substitute home. Much more could be done for the thousands of persons at present detained in mental hospitals, who are not necessarily mentally handicapped, or even mentally ill, and who are capable of a degree of genuine independence, given a temporary stay in accommodation offering a transition from institutionalisation to normal living.

Perhaps the most intractable challenge is that of the disproportionate numbers of handicapped people, of all ages, to be found in older housing, frequently living in poverty. Here the problem is not only that of adapting doors and staircases, introducing ramps and technical aid. It is very often the sheer cost of heating for the many handicapped who do not have the capacity to generate a normal level of body heat. It is encouraging to see, in certain Member States, a growing conviction that there must be a more serious attempt to come to grips with the problem of older accommodation.

Gerard LEUSSINK

Note : The text of the Information Note on the Commission's programme of subventions to promote improved housing for disabled people is given in VIII, 2.2, and a list of the grants given within this programme in 1985 appears in VIII, 1.2.

III. 3. THE EUROPEAN DISABLED PERSON'S CARD

The idea of a "European Disabled Person's Card" was first mooted in 1977 in a Council of Europe Resolution sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy. Nothing was done about it, however, and there the matter remained.

In 1981, the International Year of the Handicapped, similar initiatives sprang up in the United Nations and the European Parliament, where a number of MEPs urged the Commission to take a fresh look at the possibilities for introducing a European card.

The Commission was extremely reluctant to consider creating a "European identity card for disabled people" which appeared to run counter to the Community ideal of adjustment to ordinary social life. The idea of a "mobility card" making it easier for all the Community's disabled citizens to move between Member States did seem worthy of consideration, however. Such a card, recognized by all Member States would entitle the holder to reserved seating in public transport, reserved parking places for cars, priority treatment in queues and other benefits.

Getting such a scheme operational would not be without its headaches, however, and would demand at least a minimum degree of agreement on conditions of eligibility, issue and use. In this sense, it is inextricably linked to the European policy on transport and accessibility as dealt with by the Commission and other bodies such as the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In addition to that, the Commission will be putting forward a number of proposals during 1987 relating to accessibility, mobility and transport for the disabled, in which the idea of a European card could well re-emerge.

B. VANDERHAEGHEN

III, 4. LEISURE

III, 4.1. The Arts

The Commission recognizes the importance of the arts to disabled people and that this manifests itself in at least three ways, in therapy, in free creative expression and in employment opportunity. Creative activity features strongly in the "Europrogramme" which Mobility International operates in collaboration with the Commission. In the training and employment field the European Social Fund has supported a theatre company of mentally handicapped actors in France and a European-level training course in UK for professionals concerned with arts and disability. In UK also the Commission has recently supported a European Seminar on Theatre for the Deaf.

In 1985, the annual Rehabilitation International - Commission Seminar (see V, 2.3), held near Cambridge, focussed on Arts and Sports for the disabled. One of its most important outcomes was the decision to set up a working-party to produce guidelines for the setting up and networking of national committees on Arts and Disability in all the Community countries.

At the same time it is natural that a considerable interest in the creative arts has developed within the District Projects (V, 1). A first Seminar and exhibition, focussing on the arts and mental handicap, will be held in the Liège District at the end of 1986; all other Districts will be invited to participate, as well as experts and promoters from outside the District Network. It is intended that this should be an annual event, following a series of specific themes and organized in different Districts by rotation.

During 1987 the Commission will explore ways of establishing coordination between the Rehabilitation International and District Projects initiatives, as well as linking in with these the growing interest in the European scene of the Arts for the Disabled movement originating from the United States. In this way it will be possible to develop a concerted activity capable of achieving a positive impact.

III, 4.2. Sport

There is no doubt that within the framework of the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People the subject "Sports" cannot be neglected. Whatever terms you use, sport has a significant meaning for the disabled. Whether we think of social and economic integration, independent living or full participation, sport is part of it in a physical sense as well as in a psychological one.

For those who aim at an improvement in the working and living conditions of the disabled, concern with the development of sports is inevitable. One cannot therefore only say that the Bureau is justified in dealing with sport for the disabled, but that it has the duty to promote it, for social reasons as well as physical and psychological ones. Nowadays sport is at an early stage already part of medical and physical rehabilitation, and after being rehabilitated many disabled people are practising sport for social reasons. Sports are therefore a full part of the integration process of disabled people (See Council Resolution of 21 December 1981 - O.J. C 347/1 - 31.12.1981). Sports are by no means only important because of the competitive element, but are also an excellent means of contact for large numbers of disabled people on the national as well as international levels.

Developments in sports for disabled have advanced rapidly during the last 10 years. A number of national and international organisations were established a long time ago (for instance le "Comité International des Sports des Sourds" was founded in 1924); more recently however the Paralympics in Arnhem in 1980, the forming of the International Coordinating Committee of World Sports for the Disabled (I.C.C.) and the cooperation with the International Olympic Committee have provided new impacts on the international level. Also important is the establishment of the International Fund Sports Disabled (I.F.S.D.). This international fundraising body represents seven international organisations :

- IBSA, International Blind Sports Association
- ISOD, International Sports Organisation for the Disabled
- ISMGF, International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation
- CPI-ISRA, Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association
- ICSC, International Committee of Silent Chess
- IBCA, International Blind Chess Association
- CISS, Comité International des Sports des Sourds
- INAS-MH, International Association Sports for Persons with Mental Handicap.

The first four organisations started in 1982 the International Coordinating Committee (I.C.C.). It is expected that other organisations will join the I.C.C. A great number of national organisations are connected with the above-mentioned international organisations.

The role of the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People is in principle limited to the sporting activities which occur within Community Member States.

During the last few years the Bureau has given several subventions to support sports events with an international and especially European character. The number of demands for financial support is growing very quickly. Disabled people and their organisations in Europe have discovered the importance of European meetings in sports. For example, the District

of Dijon, one of the members of the European Network of District Projects (see V, 1) is organising in 1987 a sports meeting in which disabled people from the majority of the other districts will participate.

As the involvement of the Bureau in sports is becoming stronger, the Bureau in order to ensure good coordination and a well-balanced effort, has recently decided to establish a cooperation with ICC and IFSD. Hopefully as a result of that cooperation a European Secretariat on Sports for the Disabled will soon be set up, so that effective and transparent coordination can be firmly established and permanently assured.

Louis VAN AMELSVOORT

IV. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND BENEFITS

IV, 1. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

In Social Europe of May 1986, edition 2/86, a first article was published on social security and the disabled in which also were mentioned some elements of the work the Commission intends to do in the coming years on this subject.

In this article we shall give some reflexions on the relation that exists between employment, vocational rehabilitation and social security schemes. We shall look at the subject with a view to the problems of physically disabled people; for mentally disabled people the situation is in many respects different.

As far as terminology is concerned we shall use the terms established by the definitions of the World Health Organisation. Briefly the WHO uses three principal definitions or distinctions, namely

- impairment : any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function;
- disability : any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being;
- handicap : a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or disability, that limits or prevents the fulfilment of a role that is normal, depending on age, sex, social and cultural factors, for that individual.

It is unnecessary to say that having an impairment or disability or handicap does not automatically mean that a person is entirely unfit for work. In many cases such people are indeed unable to work, but in many others they are able to undertake quite a wide range of jobs. To what extent depends on the circumstances.

It is important to observe that in social security schemes the definitions we have mentioned above are not generally used as a basis for eligibility in respect of benefits. Broadly, there are two methods used with various modifications. First there is the method that assesses a loss of function which is compensated by a pension. This method is used in many schemes for occupational accidents or diseases. The second method aims to assess the loss of earning capacity as a result of an impairment and is used in a great number of invalidity pension schemes.

Thus in social security schemes some kind of occupational disability is assessed on the basis of which eligibility for a benefit, allowance or pension is fixed.

Reflection on possibilities in employment for disabled people can be confusing when we observe what is achieved in practice as far as people with physical and sensorial disabilities are concerned. We are led to question how it is possible that in some situations disabled people with rather severe handicaps are working full time at a normal wage in an ordinary company while at the same time people with the same or a similar handicap or even only slightly handicapped never succeed in finding a job and for years and years depend on a social security benefit. It is a phenomenon we can observe for many different categories of disability and in all countries of the European Community, and at all levels of society.

Thus one can say that there is a hidden potential for employment among disabled people receiving a benefit which could lead to higher participation on their part if they could only profit from the right measures and benefit from fair opportunities. What are the elements which influence the chance of a disabled person being integrated in the labour market ?

First of all there are generally speaking conditions which are the same for disabled and non-disabled people, such as certain talents, intelligence, education, social class, economic situation, etc. Of course disabled people are limited by their own physical impairments and the handicap that these impairments cause in their environment, for instance the inaccessibility of buildings and transport and other barriers that have to be overcome by them if they are to work like other persons. In determining the rate of participation of disabled people the attitude of society also plays an important role. On the negative side there is considerable prejudice. On the positive side there are the results of active employment policies, vocational training policies or policies that aim to improve the circumstances under which disabled people have to live. As far as the point of motivation is concerned, research in several countries has shown that most of the disabled prefer a job to a pension or benefit. It is known that young disabled people, people who have finished the vocational training or disabled people who start working in a job are very well motivated. It is also known that people who are only receiving a social security benefit for a period of years lose their motivation.

In spite of the existence or non-existence of good vocational training programmes, an active employment policy and the availability of services, treatment devices and special financial help, a great number of disabled people only achieve a job by means of good luck. This is because they have happened to have the opportunity to show their abilities, or is thanks to the personal involvement of employers or counsellors of good will.

Does the fact that a great number of unemployed disabled people are still potentially able to do some kind of work mean that vocational rehabilitation services have their short comings ? As integration or re-integration in employment depends on all the different factors we have described;

as vocational rehabilitation programmes are limited for organisational, financial and other reasons; and as the character of disability is to a great extent determined by individual factors and the personal circumstances of the disabled workers; for all these reasons the mere setting up of vocational rehabilitation programmes cannot solve the problems. What can be done is to bring into play all the services which are dealing with the problems of integrating disabled people in employment, or which can make a contribution to solving them.

It is generally acknowledged that social security schemes can make a major contribution to the assuring of appropriate measures in the field of vocational rehabilitation. It is worth remembering that the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation in its Recommendation concerning vocational rehabilitation and employment (Disabled Persons) of June 1983 in paragraph 40 recommends that "Wherever possible and appropriate, social security schemes should provide, or contribute to, the organisation, development and financing of training, placement and employment (including sheltered employment) programmes and vocational rehabilitation services for disabled persons, including rehabilitation counselling." Paragraph 41 states that "These schemes should also provide incentives to disabled persons to seek employment and measures to facilitate a gradual transition into the open labour market".

It is clear that when a worker or employee becomes disabled for one reason or another there are only two possibilities in the present situation : either he is going to receive a disability benefit or invalidity pension, or he is, after vocational rehabilitation and the necessary adaptation, going back to a job. The more people can be resettled in employment the better from the point of view of those responsible for social security schemes relating to accidents, occupational diseases and invalidity. Financing these types of schemes is at present a heavy burden on national economies. It is obvious that for the client to have a job which enables him to earn a wage is almost in every case a significant improvement in his income situation and in his level of contribution to the economy.

More than other social security schemes, the schemes concerned with invalidity, accidents at work and occupational diseases should not be too forward in granting a benefit when the event covered by the insurance occurs. In some Member States of the European Community the basic principle is applied that rehabilitation must come before a benefit. Most of the schemes in the Member States contain dispositions which make participation in rehabilitation measures possible by means of financial support or otherwise, even though in general schemes relating to accidents, injuries or occupational diseases we find better possibilities than in schemes for invalidity or disability.

When we review the possibilities for improving vocational rehabilitation and re-integration in employment by means of social security schemes we observe first that measures in this field are based on different programmes and carried out by various institutions in many countries. That is why the already mentioned Recommendation of the International Labour Organisation of 1983 proposes a better co-ordination between all services and institutions, social security included.

If we think about how social security schemes could deliver a better contribution to vocational rehabilitation and integration or re-integration into employment, we must realize that there is a great difference between first vocational training as it exists for instance in programmes for young disabled people, and vocational rehabilitation in the sense of the re-training or re-education of people who have already had a professional life and became disabled at a later age.

There is no doubt that re-integration in employment of people who become disabled after a - sometimes very long - period of work is one of the major problems of vocational training and social security as well. These people have the advantage of a professional experience which however at the same time is a disadvantage, because in very many cases the sickness or impairment causes disability only for the previous job and certain related types of work while a number of potential abilities remain. Their range of possibilities on the labour market is however limited and they may not be able to fit in with existing vocational training programmes. The situation of these people touches one of the key problems in schemes for invalidity and for occupational accident or disease in the social security system : the assessment of disability and eligibility for a benefit.

Returning to one of the previous reflections in this article, we find that the outcome of the process of assessment of disability and of eligibility in otherwise similar social security schemes can be very different : in one system paraplegics may receive almost automatically a full invalidity pension or accident allowance, while in another case a relatively high percentage are after a certain period integrated in open employment. This is not only the result of medical treatment and reduction of functional disability, but also of the existence of good vocational training programmes, of knowledge of the situation on the labour market, of good counselling, and of the availability of devices for adaptation of the working place and so forth.

One of the persistent shortcomings in vocational rehabilitation is the lack of possibilities in training for individual cases. Many training programmes contain a number of courses for certain professions which are not suitable for a large part of the people who become disabled. In fact the category of people we have in view need a second chance. The conditions for that second chance should be provided by a concerted application of social security schemes and vocational training or educational programmes. Otherwise these partially disabled people become and remain dependent on benefits.

A second category of people who become disabled for their job have only more limited needs. They fulfil in fact the conditions for doing a range of jobs but cannot prove that they are fit for the work. These people, often in fact receiving a benefit, need a more practical second chance. This can for instance be a probation period without the risk of loss of benefit. Social security schemes should not operate in such a way as to discourage this flexibility.

We are convinced that there are possibilities to reduce the number of disabled people depending on social security by modifying social security schemes or by improving their application. These possibilities are :

- taking more preventive actions;
- defining more clearly the right of the individual to vocational rehabilitation;
- removing disincentives;
- increasing flexibility in the schemes;
- improving co-ordination.

There are important conclusions for Community policy to be drawn. In spite of the difficulties in the employment field, the Commission must insist on the principle that "Rehabilitation comes before benefit"; this implies an insistence on the need to develop coherence between employment policy and benefit policy in the disability field. The Commission has already stressed this need in its Recommendation on the Employment of Disabled People (see II, 3) which the Council adopted in July. The conclusion highlights also the importance of the actual and developing work of the European Community Network of Rehabilitation Centres (see II, 1).

Even more important for the future are the implications for the proposals which the Commission is preparing for the improvement of social security and other benefit systems for disabled people throughout the Community. These proposals will certainly have to address above all the problem of incoherences and inequities which exist as between benefit systems and active rehabilitation policy.

Louis VAN AMELSVOORT

IV. 2. TAXATION AND LEVIES

Community initiatives in favour of the disabled range across a very broad field, one of the less obvious areas of which is problems linked to indirect taxation - i.e., Valued Added Tax, import duties and special taxes levied on royalty payments.

1. Value Added Tax (VAT) on products and services for use by handicapped persons.

The legislative basis of VAT in the various Member States is governed by the 6th Directive of 17 May 1977 (77/388/EEC), which sets out the principle of the taxable amount, the transactions subject to the varying rates of VAT, and the conditions governing exemptions and the right to deduct VAT, both of which are of especial importance to the handicapped and their organizations.

Member States have the power to exempt from VAT "services and goods closely associated with social welfare and social security provided or supplied by bodies governed by public law or other agencies recognised by the Member State concerned as having a social purpose" (1). Exemption may, however, be refused to such bodies as sheltered workshops. The second section of transitional provisions (2) of the same Directive (which can be called up for review every five years) does allow certain "transactions" to be exempted, such as, for example, "transactions by blind persons or workshops for the blind, provided their exemption does not lead to serious distortions of competition" (3).

During 1984 and 1985, the Commission submitted a series of proposals for Council Directives (4), intended as a first step on the long road to "the Unification of the Internal Market". The general thrust of these Directives will be to bring into line the rates of VAT, as well as the conditions for exemption and deduction. It is now clear that the attainment of a unified internal market will have a major influence on the future policies of the Member States with regard to indirect taxation on the handicapped.

(1) 6th Directive : Article 13, A1 g

(2) 6th Directive : Article 28

(3) 6th Directive : Annex E, Pt 7. This particular exemption is currently allowed in West Germany, Denmark, France and the Netherlands.

(4) The most recent of which is the draft Directive introducing a standstill in value added tax and excise duties. COM (85) 606 final, 18/11/1985.

2. Taxes on the import of goods from non-Community countries for use by handicapped persons.

Goods imported from outside the Community face taxation on two fronts : import duties and VAT.

The customs duties payable on imports are governed by the Common Customs Tariff (CCT), which is revised annually and which operates in conjunction with the system of customs franchises. (1)

Under these provisions, certain articles specially designed for the educational, scientific or cultural advancement of blind people (2) shall be exempted from duty where imported by the blind individual himself or by a welfare organization for the blind. The same exemption also applies to objects designed for the education, employment and social advancement of other disabled people. Importers for strictly commercial purposes, however, cannot claim the benefit of the exemption.

The 6th VAT Directive exempts "the final importation of goods qualifying for exemption from customs duties other than as provided for in the Common Customs Tariff ..." (3); in other words, all items allowed duty-free entry are also exempted from VAT import.

3. Taxation of blank magnetic media and/or recording equipment.

The Commission will shortly be publishing a "Green Paper" on plans to tax blank magnetic media and/or recording equipment to provide for royalty payments. This will essentially be a discussion document airing the opinions of the interests involved, including those of blind people's associations who are fiercely opposed to such a tax as being a threat to their principal communication line with the outside world.

The tax, if introduced, would be in addition to the VAT already applied in most Member States not only on the magnetic media, but in some cases, on its reproduction.

B. VANDERHAEGHEN

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- (1) Commission Regulation 2289/83 applying Council Regulation 1918/83 relating to the setting-up of a Community system of customs franchise privileges.
- (2) Goods listed in Annex III of Regulation 918/83, e.g. braille paper, television screen magnifiers, specially-adapted type-writers but NOT specially-adapted computers.
- (3) 6th Directive, Article 14, para.1 (d).

V. THE 'GRASSROOTS'

V, 1. DISTRICT PROJECTS FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Note : For a list of the District Projects see VIII,3.2

HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

The Council resolution on the action programme for the promotion of the socio-economic integration of disabled people of 21 December 1981 has proposed to set up, in close cooperation with Member States, a network of selected development actions to promote model coordination of the actions undertaken, especially at local level.

Disabled people would be focussed upon as people requiring special responses to fit the same day-to-day needs as the total population and the solutions should be found - ideally - in a spirit of integration.

The Commission responded by setting up 16 District projects. Most Member States of the European Community have enabled the projects to start at the end of 1983, by choosing the district(s) ; nominating a project leader - to set up a multi-disciplinary team and develop a work plan ; nominating an evaluator - to support and guide the development of the activities ; and setting up an advisory committee in which all relevant local forces/resources would be represented.

The structures were devised by the Commission and the representatives of the Member States in cooperation, working together in the Liaison group on Disability (see VI,4), where they also developed criteria for choosing the districts, and identified the tasks they should undertake.

HARMONY IN THE DIVERSITY

A German journalist, listening to all the project leaders speak about the development of their project, was struck by the cohesion between them, the understanding of each other's projects, the differences they faced and the exchanges of possible solutions - and also, about their diversity in structure of project, their administrative and cultural operational backgrounds.

BASIC HYPOTHESES FOR INTEGRATION

Several hypotheses are at the basis of the creation of the District projects for the promotion of the socio-economic integration of disabled people.

- Disabled people can best be integrated when appropriate solutions are searched for in a local area, where the disabled person lives, i.e. in his normal surroundings of family, friends, neighbours, services, associations etc.
- The multiplicity of services - each with its own approach, operating in an uncoordinated manner with no,- or a lack of,- knowledge of the intervention of each of them - is very expensive and inefficient and can have a counter-productive effect on the integration approach. The nature of integration requested by disabled people and accepted by society at large can only be reached by active involvement of disabled people and collaboration at finding solutions in the direction of a better integration of disabled and non-disabled people, side by side.

District teams have responded to both tasks given by the Council of Ministers' wishes and the Community's needs. It has been hard work to motivate local forces. It is not reasonable to expect that local resources would easily be put together in a complete coordination system, when national administrations are themselves often closed towers where hardly any cooperation occurs.

Despite their growing pains, the Districts have already achieved a great deal. To list all the results would take too long. We shall simply mention some of them.

The structuring of the work plans has not been facilitated by two - at first sight contradictory aims : one, to coordinate all resources for the benefit of all disabled people in the territory, and the other to develop a vocational training activity for a maximum of 200 disabled people who would be, ideally, less than 25 years of age.

In the short period of, on average, two and a half years of activity, it is amazing to see what small teams, with relatively limited resources, have been able to realise. The Commission - through a small team of experts at European level - has made sure that the teams have worked within the terms of reference laid down for them by the Liaison group. It has, however, not imposed a work plan and a fixed set of priorities. This would have been contradictory to the basic idea of responding to local needs and requirements perceived on the basis of a knowledge of local administrative structures, legal framework, culture, etc.

The animation by this team of experts has consisted in helping the Districts to understand what is intended at the level of main objectives, leaving it up to the creative forces in the project teams to translate it in terms of the local reality.

SOME IDEAS OF ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

As we have said, much headway has been achieved, very often thanks to the enthusiasm of the participants including, more and more, disabled people themselves.

DISTRICT EXPERIENCES

Coordination of services for disabled people is the main concern of the European Community's District projects. This means the coordination of special provision with ordinary provision, and the attempt to meet special needs while promoting and supporting the social integration of those with handicaps. Several models of coordination have been tested. For example, in Aarhus, Denmark, coordination exists for rehabilitating in the most comprehensive way possible recently injured people in accidents. In the Midland Counties, Ireland, a coordination model of different levels involved has been developed around the problem of housing. Coordination for employment exists in Montpellier, France, and coordination of the day centres for the severely disabled people operates in Genk-Hasselt, Belgium, and in West Berkshire, United Kingdom.

Another more global model of coordinating services is tested in Luxembourg, and in Piacenza (Italy), where common procedures and links are established.

The active participation of disabled people is most advanced in the Districts of Lambeth (London) and of Dordrecht (Netherlands) where introduction courses on the real meaning of the Districts have been given to disabled people in general. Dordrecht, as well as Berlin, has shown particular concern for joining mentally disabled and mentally ill people into the discussions, in working groups.

Case studies and in-depth analyses have helped in most districts to understand the real needs of disabled people. This technique has been used mainly by Dordrecht and Venlo (Netherlands), and by Aarhus (Denmark) and Basilicata (Italy).

As mentioned before, integration can be promoted in a global way, but also in each specific sector by gearing each service towards an integrative approach, such as integration in education, further education, employment and leisure, as well as in all the supporting services, e.g. transport, mobility, access, housing, and so on.

Many Districts have undertaken activities in most of these areas. As is wellknown, vocational training has been particularly promoted within the District projects. This, in contrast to the global approach of the coordination activity, has been concentrated on specific populations and on specific training activities. As striking examples we could indicate the particular efforts of Berlin in training the mentally ill and employing them on the open market.

Another example is the concentration on new technologies where West Berkshire has started the move and others have followed.

Employment promoting strategies have been tried in several Districts, for example incentives for companies, the linking of training with employment, gradual placement, and the establishment of cooperatives.

Specific public awareness activities are also developed : theatre in schools, visits to schools, radio and television programmes, press coverage around specific activities, political platforms, etc.

NETWORKING

Much effort has been undertaken at local level. Very recently, however, we have identified a real networking force among project leaders ; this was already felt some months earlier among evaluators.

Inter-district study visits, a programme financed by the Commission, have allowed project teams to understand much better what the reality is within which other Districts operate. This programme has promoted the exchange of good practice, but also reduce the mistakes which should not be undertaken elsewhere.

The Interact Newsletter, appears already in seven E.E.C. languages, soon in nine. There are three issues a year and each time 15.000 copies are distributed free of charge and free of postage (see VI,3). It covers activities of the network as well as of the individual Districts.

District profiles, detailed descriptions of each project, also produced in seven (soon nine) languages, give to District participants a real insight as to the possibilities of action, and to all others interested in the Districts an up-to-date detailed account of each one.

Finally, six meetings or seminars are organised each year to exchange experiences and develop more particularly one or more themes of investigation. These events enable project leaders, evaluators and information specialists from all districts to meet each other. In addition there are meetings of project leaders with the evaluators, and with the Liaison Group, and the year's series of meeting culminates in a Plenary Conference. This was held in 1984 in Dordrecht and in 1985 in Montpellier. The 1986 meeting will take place in Piacenza.

CONCLUSIONS

- On the basis of a few common hypotheses, district projects are experimenting with a wide range of patterns of actions concerning the delivery, reorientation, reallocation and coordination of all resources aiming at the integration of disabled people.
- This range is extremely wide, according to the context, process and product variables of the various local realities.
- It is already clear that there will be useful results to be exploited at European and national levels, as well as for the area or for the regions where the projects are located.

- On a European level, it will be possible to disseminate some successful models found in different nations and some local good ideas, transferable with some adaptations.
- It is hard to trace the outline of a European transferable model. One of the most profitable points in this programme has really been its basing itself on the local context, in particular on the local offer and demand of resources aiming at integration.
- No rigid schemes can be suggested to anyone. The experience from the districts is still young, but it has already been able to give some examples of good practice and, naturally, also of attempts which did not work out. Every new experiment will be able to choose the patterns which can be best used in its area.
- These two and a half years have shown that it is indeed possible - and can be successful - to work, to collaborate, to make the best of the already existing resources by managing services or helping them to coordinate their actions.
- Experience has shown that it is possible to make either private, public or voluntary bodies participate, according to the local situation.
- Coordination can be looked for in order to respond to the needs of a specific group of disabled people (Aarhus) or in general matters (inside a sector or among several sectors), or in order to set up new projects.
- All the levels of decision-making and managing of the services must be involved to achieve a real change in objectives and attitudes of the services themselves.
- The local dimension has proved to be a good one within the general European process of regionalisation.

Claudine Van Lierde

V, 2. OTHER 'GRASSROOTS' ACTIONS

It would be hard to think of any area of policy where it is more important for the Commission to do all it can to establish and develop direct contacts with the grassroots - the professionals, all those (both officials and others) who work at local level, especially also disabled people and their families and the associations which represent them. As for professionals the Network of Rehabilitation Centres (described in II, 1 above) is the chief, closest and most elaborate of our contacts, though subventions to European professional seminars are the basis of other useful links too. What about the Non-governmental organizations (NGOS) ? And what about the local level, over and above the District Projects we have just described ?

V, 2.1 Associations of and for Disabled People : International, national and regional NGOS

We have four means of cooperation in this vitally important sector :

- (i) Annual Group Dialogue. Each year we have a meeting for exchange of information and ideas with the representatives of the leading European or International NGOS. As you see from the list of members of this group in Annex IV, 3.3, there are about 24 of these ; some are strictly associations of disabled people, some bring together disabled people or their families with professionals, some include disability as an important element in a wider range of responsibility. Each association can send two representatives, at least one of whom should be disabled if possible : it is encouraging that since these meetings began the number of disabled participants has increased and runs now at about 50 %. As well as all other expenses of the meeting, the Commission pays the cost of sign interpretation and produces key documents in braille.
- (ii) Consultation on Policy. When the Commission is developing policy proposals it invites the NGOS both to submit written Position Papers and to participate in a multi-representative Workshop which is the most important occasion in the Commission's consultation process. This happened with the Commission's initiative on Employment (see II, 3 ; the papers of the March 1984 Workshop are available in English, French and German) and will happen with the next initiative, that on the Physical Environment (see III, 1 ; Workshop scheduled for December 1986).
- (iii) Subventions to European Cooperation. The NGO'S are the chief beneficiaries of the annual European Subventions programmes. As you can see from the list of such subventions awarded in 1985 (Annex I - twice the number awarded in 1984, by the way) this programme brings the Commission into direct, practical and friendly cooperation with a considerable number of associations at various levels and concerned with many

different problems and handicaps. Modest financial help can make a big difference, especially with costs of travel, interpretation or translation, all of them heavy. Although the autonomy of the associations is totally unaffected, there is little doubt that Commission support has had the effect over the last few years of fostering the European dimension of the life of international and national associations - the creation of Autism Europe is an example of this, as is the strengthening of the European activity of the World Blind Union, the World Federation of the Deaf and the World Federation for Mental Health. Whenever possible, an official of the Bureau attends the events themselves. These opportunities to mix with and talk to those who are directly concerned is an invaluable experience for us ; equally useful are many of the reports of conferences and seminars which form one of our most important sources of information and ideas.* (1)

- (iv) One-to-one contacts. Many NGOS send us their periodicals regularly, and we are now sending information about our activities to the editors of the most important of these. Quite often representatives of associations visit our offices to discuss the development of their programme, and this can afford valuable opportunities to discuss general problems or make new contacts.

V, 2.2 The Bureau's subvention programme to support European Cooperation in the disability field

Since 1983, as part of its action programme to promote the social integration of disabled people in the European Community, the Commission has been able to offer subventions to support activities of European cooperation which advance the social integration and autonomy of people with disabilities.

The main objective is to encourage the collaboration at European level of bodies, particularly "Non-Governmental Organisations" (NGO's) concerned with the social integration of disabled people, notably in order to promote innovation, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of good practice in this field.

In 1985, for example, subventions have been afforded to activities of groups concerned with particular disabilities (visual impairments, hearing impairments, motor impairments, mental handicaps, mental impairments, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy) and to theme-based activities concerning various disabilities (employment, new technologies, education, housing, sports and games, participation, information and media, research, occupational therapy, developing countries).

* (1) See further V, 2.2.

What are the kinds of seminars we give financial support to ?

Let's give a concrete example :

"The European Conference on Housing for Disabled People",
which was organised by the Hamburger Spastikverein and
the International Cerebral Palsy Society in 1985.

One third of the participants at this conference were from the Hamburg region, one third from elsewhere in Germany, one third from other European countries. The mix proved exceptionnally effective : there were a good number of disabled participants and discussion was lively and well informed.

A wide range of divergent approaches to the living conditions of disabled people were realistically presented and the conference highlighted in a most interesting way the conflict between recommending the availability of options and insisting that radical independence is the only "good" solution.

To become eligible for financial support a project should satisfy certain criteria :

- proposals may concern any kind of encounter or development project, or any other activity involving disabled people, excluding however, studies or basic research
- activities must involve an active cooperation from three or more Member States
- the activity must be entirely or largely aimed at promoting the social integration of disabled people.

Subventions are only attributable to the running costs of specific actions (e.g. conferences, seminars, encounters, training sessions or collaborative projects) and the level of contribution will be assessed according to need and to priority value.

Promoters are requested to make their submissions in the form of a brief letter (in which the request for support is explicitly made), with two annexes. The first should present the outline programme of the event. The second should set out the total estimated budget, with an estimate also of other sources of revenue.

If the project is eligible the promoter may be awarded a subvention which is expressed as a fixed percentage of the estimated expenditure. This percentage will be maintained after receipt of the final accounts by calculating the amount of the last instalment of the grant being accorded.

Note : for the Information Note which sets out the criteria for these subventions, and details of the subventions given in 1985, see VIII 1, 1 and VIII 2, 1

V, 2.3 Relations with Rehabilitation International (R.I.)

Note : A list of the RI Secretariats in Community countries is given in VIII, 3.4

RI, with branches in most of the countries of the world, has a very special part to play in promoting developments and cooperation over the whole field of rehabilitation. The national secretariats of RI in the Community Member States are typically located in units or centres which may be governmental, para-governmental or non-governmental, but which in every case hold a position of central importance in their Member State : examples of this are the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation in London, the Comité de Liaison pour la Réadaptation des Personnes Handicapées in France, the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Rehabilitation in Germany, the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Revalidatie in the Netherlands, the Irish National Rehabilitation Board. RI has entrusted the responsibility for its liaison with the Community to its Belgian Secretary, Professor A. Storm, who also assures liaison between the District Projects and the Network of Centres of which he is a founder Member.

In addition to numerous occasional contacts, the regular cooperation with RI takes two forms. Every year an information meeting of all the Community National Secretaries of RI is organized in Brussels ; this both helps the secretaries to keep up with each other's work, and ensures that they are kept up to date with the Commission's programme and can comment on it. At another time of the year, hosted by one of the RI national secretaries in rotation and financed by the Commission, there is a seminar on a specific theme for the secretaries together with experts of their choice. The first of these took place in Chantilly in 1984 and focussed on housing and access ; the second, concerned with the arts and sport, was held in Cambridge last year. For the 1986 seminar the Portuguese RI secretariat will be host and the theme will be educational integration.

V, 2.4 The Europrogramme of Mobility International

In 1982, following an initiative of the European Parliament, the Commission undertook a first experimental programme of exchanges and encounters for young disabled people. Since then an annual programme of some dozen such events per year has been carried out by means of a close collaboration between the Commission and Mobility International, the only international Non-governmental

Association which specializes in disabled young people's exchange. Mobility International undertakes full responsibility for the management and administration of the programme, some elements of which are directly organized by MI itself, others by national or international organizations specializing either in youth exchange or in the needs of young disabled people.

Young people with a wide range of disabilities have participated in the programme, including some of the most severe - autism, for example, or the combination of deafness, blindness and mental handicap. All Community countries have been engaged, as hosts as well as visitors. In the majority of events, young disabled people from a number of countries come together to share in a cultural, adventurous or intellectual activity ; often these events are integrated, involving the sharing of the same experience by young people with and without disabilities. In some events on the other hand professionals from various countries come together to work in collaboration with disabled young people in one host institution. The value of both these approaches has been confirmed in an independent evaluation of the programme which was carried out in 1985 and the report of which is being translated for wide distribution.

Everyone of course is hoping that the YES programme will offer many new opportunities of exchange for young disabled People. But there will always, we believe, remain the need for a special programme too to open up innovations and show the way in overcoming those more difficult problems where specialized knowledge and experience are needed.

V, 2.5 New Departures : local authorities and social partners

The District Projects described in V,1 above bring us obviously into frequent and close contact with local authorities as well as others working at the local level.

Local authorities are often involved too in the subventions programme just described, either indirectly or even directly : in 1984 for example we were able to give a grant to a lively and valuable meeting of Directors of Social Services from nearly all Member States, and from the then candidate countries, to discuss problems in the organization of services for disabled people.

In order to give a more regular and systematic character to these contacts, the Commission, in close collaboration with the International Union of Local Authorities, has organized a first seminar of elected and professional representatives from local authorities all over the Community. The seminar has taken place in Rotterdam, and focussed on the problems of the physical environment ; there was an opportunity to visit neighbouring projects. As well as discussing the theme, the participants were invited to make recommendations for means of maintaining regular contact in the future.

With aid of CEDEFOP (see II,2) the Commission held in 1985 a first meeting of representatives of the social partners, chosen for their special interest in disabled people by the appropriate members of the CEDEFOP Governing Board. The meeting followed up a discussion of the training and employment of disabled workers which the Commission had previously launched in the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training. It is hoped that it will be possible to organize similar exchanges of information and ideas with representatives of the social partners regularly in the future.

VI. INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION

VI, 1. HANDYNET - THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK ON DISABILITY

Note : for a selected list of members of the
Handynet "Family", see VIII, 3.5

1. THE HANDYNET CONCEPT AND ITS JUSTIFICATION

HANDYNET is a European Community project to create a computer-based system which will give access throughout the Community to a centrally organized source of information and services covering all disability questions.

The justification for this comprehensive long-term approach, and for the initiatives which the Commission is undertaking, is to be found in the Council Resolution on Social Integration of Disabled People of 21 December 1981 (*).

" Member States are invited to ... :

- promote the development and availability of technical aids, the pooling of information and experience in the field and the application of new technologies, so as to facilitate the communication, mobility and employment of handicapped people ".

" The Commission is invited to pursue its efforts, in particular by ... :

- pooling the information and taking into account the existing national information systems, and assuring an exchange of information between the services involved in framing and implementing the above measures, including representatives of handicapped people ".

The HANDYNET project adopts :

- decentralized approach to data collection and standardized multilingual analysis by specialists in Member States
- central organized multilingual diffusion of information and services :
 - from a single host on the European telecommunication network

(*) O.J. C 347 - 31 December 1981

- °° through HANDYNET distribution nodes providing information and advice in the context of their normal day to day specialized activity, whether rehabilitation and/or training centres, special education units, independent living centres, local information services, etc.

This philosophy should provide significant advantages in terms of :

- ° avoidance of duplication and reduction of costs
- ° better access to relevant information
- ° progressive harmonization in relevant national/regional regulations as well as in provision for the handicapped.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The project is an activity within the general Programme of the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People.

A HANDYNET Coordination Unit has been set up with responsibility for advising the Head of the Bureau in planning and steering the HANDYNET programme. Specific actions within the programme are launched through study and service contracts entrusted by the Bureau to commercial and non-profit organizations located in the EEC.

These Groups are currently advising the Bureau at the level of its general "Programme for Social Integration of Disabled People". As HANDYNET is part of the Programme, no specific HANDYNET Advisory Group has been created. The three Groups are respectively :

- ° The Liaison Group on Disability consisting of members of relevant Member States departments being officially nominated by their governments (see VI, 4);
- ° The Disability NGO's Dialogue Group gathering representatives of the main international non-governmental organizations for and of disabled persons for discussion with the Commission (see V, 2; VI, 4; VIII, 3.3);
- ° The Community Rehabilitation Centres Network Group, consisting of representatives of some rehabilitation centres chosen in the twelve countries, through informal agreement between the Commission and the Member States (see II, 1; VI, 4; VIII, 3.1).

3. GENERAL SCOPE AND SEMANTIC STRUCTURE

Being an activity within the general Programme of the Bureau, HANDYNET should progressively cover the whole ground of social integration of disabled people as well as prevention of handicaps.

A systematic programme of "need and scope" studies is under way.

A large part of this studies programme has been accomplished or, at least, initiated;

° Family needs for information

This study was entrusted in 1984-85 to Mr. G. FRAGNIERE, himself the parent of a handicapped child and one of the founders of "Autism Europe". The final report is available in French.

° Information needs concerning employment

This study was attributed in 1985 to the "Association Française pour la Formation des Adultes" (AFPA). The final report is available in French.

° Information needs concerning education, rehabilitation and training

This study was attributed in 1985 to the "Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation" (GID). The final report is available in English.

° Information needs concerning access to buildings

This study, attributed at the end of 1985 to the Danish architect Klaus BLACH, is currently under way.

° Information needs concerning access to transport

This study is being attributed in the first half 1986 to the Gruppe Hardtberg in Bonn.

° Information needs concerning prevention

A study of information needs on social and educational measures to be taken in the field of prevention is being attributed in the first half of 1986 to the Centre Technique National d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Handicaps et les Inadaptations (CINERHI) in Paris.

Other studies corresponding to the general HANDYNET semantic structures should be launched in 1987.

Contractors in charge of the studies are requested to work in a systematic way. In their respective areas they have to :

- ° Specify corresponding target groups, among the general set of HANDYNET target groups, i.e. :

- °° international, Community, national and local institutions;
- °° non-governmental organisations for and of disabled persons;
- °° "intermediaries" in contact with disabled persons and needing information as well as services in order to :
 - ° facilitate and upgrade fulfilment of their several vocational or voluntary tasks;
 - ° provide information to the end users;
- °° disabled persons and their families
- ° identify :
 - °° needs of those specific groups in terms of computerized information and services;
 - °° main relevant information sources and services already available in the EEC Member States (whether computerized or not);
- ° circulate to members of a preestablished panel the set of identified needs and corresponding potential sources asking for :
 - °° filling the gaps;
 - °° comments;
 - °° validation and ranking;
- ° establish the set of validated priority needs in terms of information modules and computerized services, taking into account the general semantic structure of HANDYNET.

4. GENERAL STANDARDS

4.1 Semantic Standards : Classifications and thesaurus

A classified vocabulary and the corresponding multilingual thesaurus (HANDYVOC) in all Community languages will be progressively established for the whole HANDYNET project, thus covering prevention of handicaps as well as the various areas of social integration of disabled persons.

An evaluation of existing thesauri of technical aids was carried out by ASLIB in 1982; Alan GILCHRIST and Partners have produced a 7-language version of the Nordic Classification of technical aids, with the equivalent thesaurus. Corresponding Spanish and Portuguese versions will be established in 1987. Further development of HANDYVOC will take place as priorities require and resources permit.

4.2 Technical Standards

In parallel with some of the studies, the Commission will launch a contract intended to develop a set of standards covering hardware, software, transmission and layout in a computer-readable form of data, as well as technical means of presenting data to users : text on screen; paper (in black or Braille); paperless Braille devices; image on screen; voice synthesis; etc.

The scope of the contract will be focussed on technical developments which are of relevance to the short and medium term. Consideration will be given to likely longer term developments but this will be restricted to what is necessary to avoid closing off the paths to making use of major currently foreseen technological developments.

The contract will identify the issues arising from the need to make a choice amongst a limited number of available hosts and systems to run on these hosts.

In order to arrive at concrete alternatives which can be compared, sets of standards corresponding to several "technical scenarios" will be established with an indication of their respective advantages and disadvantages in terms of functions provided to users, ease to use, etc ...

After discussion with the Commission, with the HANDYNET Coordination Unit and the main HANDYNET potential partners, the preferred technical scenario will be expanded in further detail and the specific technical requirements will be set out in appropriate terms covering :

- transmission of data for entry, amendment, etc.
- procedures and protocols for local retrieval of data
- procedures and protocols for remote retrieval of data
- facilities to be available on host systems
- facilities to be available on regularly participating systems
- facilities to be available on systems for occasional access
- software and hardware types.

5. PREPARATION OF A PILOT PHASE

5.1 HANDYAIDS : a first information module

The HANDYAIDS data base has been chosen as the first important element in the HANDYNET structure. This will comprise information on technical aids which are available in the EEC Member States. The information content is divided into three groups :

- WHAT ? This information concerns all relevant data on technical aids. In addition to its material properties, this includes information such as commercial information, functional applications and user profiles. Organisation of the "WHAT" file is done along the tree structure of the Nordic Classification of technical aids.
- WHO ? This file gathers data on organisations concerned with technical aids :
 - suppliers (local, regional)
 - importers (national)
 - manufacturers (international)
 - procurers and providers (regional, national)
 - advisers (local, regional)
 - information centres (local, regional)
 - government bodies (local, regional, national, and at Community level)
 - umbrella organisations (national, international)
- HOW ? This concerns :
 - regulations concerning the acquisition of technical aids for personal use
 - regulations concerning production of technical aids and trade practice (e.g. distribution), with a special interest in production of innovative products.

5.1.1 HANDYAIDS record content specification

A sixteen month contract aiming at establishing the HANDYAIDS record content specification has been attributed in November 1985 to the Lucas Stichting voor Revalidatie (Hoensbroek) in collaboration with SIVA (Milano) and the Mulhouse Rehabilitation Centre.

5.1.2 HANDYAIDS test bed stage

In order to test :

- feasibility for establishing a menu driven search strategy on the basis of the proposed HANDYAIDS file structure
- suitability of the chosen common data exchange format

the Commission is currently (1986) launching a test bed experiment. This implies that the Commission will arrange a contract with a "host" organisation as well as with a group in charge of drawing the menu driven searching dialogue on the basis of the HANDYAIDS file structure.

5.1.3 Call for Expression of Interest

As soon as technical specifications concerning

- ° the HANDYAIDS file
- ° the data producers minimum profiles

are established, the Commission, in collaboration with the Liaison Group, will call for Expressions of Interest from Centres which might be able to operate as national data collection centres for HANDYAIDS. These centres might be single centres or consortia of several centres developing supplementary activities such as centres specialized in aids to physically disabled, blind and low vision people, deaf people and mentally disabled for example.

5.2 Other actions to be developed during the pilot stage

Similarly structured data bases (what, who, how) will be launched during the pilot phase. Ranking of identified priorities will be done by the Commission in collaboration with the Liaison Group.

Bibliographical data bases are not concerned by the HANDYNET project sensu stricto but suitable gateways, available from the HANDYNET Host, will be organised depending on mutual agreement with the data base producers.

Danielle RIMBERT

VI, 2. AUDIO AND VIDEO

VI, 2.1. Audio : "Cassette Europe"

In order to make the basic policy documents, and other key texts concerning the Community's action in favour of disabled people, readily accessible to people with visual impairments, the Commission in cooperation with the Belgian Ligue Braille launched in 1985 the "Cassette Europe" project. Using all the Community languages the texts are read by native-speaking volunteers from among the Commission's staff on to cassette in the Ligue's specialized studios. Good quality cassette copies are then mailed - free of postal charges throughout the Community - to the leading Associations of blind people in all Member States for further distribution as required.

VI, 2.2. Video

Everywhere in the world of disability there is a growing interest in the production and use of video-cassettes. So far the Commission has limited its activity in this area to the support of a few independent projects of particular interest. This includes a series of films on the "real life" problem of disabled people which originated from the Conservatoire des Arts et des Métiers in Paris; a film on access and mobility produced by the Association Nationale pour le Logement de Handicapés in Belgium; and a project to make available to French and German speakers a film on disability and new technologies originally commissioned by the UK Department of Trade and Industry.

We shall continue to support selected independent video projects which have European potential, and to encourage experiment in developing and disseminating knowledge of the techniques for making video accessible in different language contexts.

At the same time we shall need to develop the capacity to give more priority to video in our own programme. The possibility of a major video project on the Districts Network (see V, 1) is being discussed, and a proposal has just been received for a video film of the experience of the Network of Rehabilitation Centres (see II, 1). Equally pressing is the need to develop at European level an information clearing-house on available videos; the storing and distribution of such information could be integrated within the Handynet project (VI, 1).

VI, 3. PUBLICATIONS

VI, 3.1. Special Projects

Shortly after the creation of "Cassette Europe" for visually impaired people (VI, 2.1) we established, for the same clients, "Braille Europe" a service which distributes detailed short information (unsuitable for cassette; names and responsibilities of Commissioners for example) by the same channels as for the audio project. The braille texts in all the Community languages are printed and sent out on our behalf by the Oeuvre Nationale des Aveugles in Belgium.

It is not generally known that many prelingually and profoundly deaf people have difficulty in reading printed texts. The Commission is supporting an experimental project of the Education Department of the University of Bristol to produce a publication on European themes which by means of illustrations and careful editing of the text will be as accessible as possible to people with severe hearing disabilities.

VI, 3.2. Newsletters

Up-to-date information about the programme, aimed at a wide readership, is published quite frequently in Social Europe and its supplements; a list of these articles is given in the Annex (VIII, 4.3). But the members of our two principal interactive networks need to be able to communicate with each other in a more intensive way if the idea of a network is to have any meaning. The Newsletter of the District Projects Network (V, 1) is produced three times a year by the Interact team in all the Community languages. The Journal of the Network of Rehabilitation Centres (II, 1) comes out four times a year in French, English and German; it is managed by the Network's Information Working Group, set up in the Lucas Stichting in Hoensbroek and printed and despatched in the Don Calabria Centre, Milan.

The clientèle for both these publications is growing quite fast. Their form, content and target are as yet experimental, and further developments are to be expected.

VI, 3.3. Documentation Service

The Bureau sends out all Community policy documents concerning disability questions, in all the Community languages, to all its regular contact Networks; a complete stock of all such documents produced since 1974 is always kept ready, and single copies will be sent on request free of all charges.

Study reports produced under contract for the Bureau are obviously a more difficult problem, since their much greater length implies difficulties at all stages - translation above all, but also duplication and despatch. Our studies are normally (though not always) translated into at least two additional languages, sometimes more. Copies are made available free to our cooperating networks; beyond that, some studies can be purchased through the normal official outlets, others are available for reference in the Bureau and copies of them will be sent if available.

A list of the policy documents and studies available is given in the Annex (VIII, 4.1 and VIII, 4.2).

Another important class of "grey literature" consists of reports of conferences and similar events organized independently (often by Non-Governmental Organizations) with financial support from the Bureau. Many of these are of high quality, representing the fruits of priceless direct experience and full of new ideas. Though often the organizers are able to distribute these through their own membership networks, often too a wider dissemination would be welcome. At present, the Commission can only keep a stock for its own use and that of expert contractors or visitors.

We look forward to the day when we shall be able to make both study reports and conference reports more widely available and also to provide a reliable documentation service to conference organizers.

VI, 4. LIAISON AND CONTACT GROUPS

The Commission's regular contacts with, and informal consultation of, representatives of local communities (V, 1), of the rehabilitation establishments (II, 1) and of the voluntary associations (V, 2.1) are described in the appropriate section in this Dossier.

Particular importance however attaches to the Commission's regular meetings with representatives from the relevant Ministries in Member States. This takes two forms.

As soon as the new action programme on social integration was launched in 1982, the Commission invited Member States to nominate delegations to a European Community Liaison Group on Disability, a new body which succeeded the Working Party on Vocational Rehabilitation formed in 1974.

Delegations to the Liaison Group are made up of officials from Ministries of Employment (or Labour), Social Affairs and Health, occasionally also Education. The Liaison Group meets four times a year in Brussels to discuss with the Commission the progress and future development of all aspects of the programme. Liaison Group members also attend plenary sessions, organized outside Brussels, both of the Rehabilitation Centres and of the District Projects.

More recently, as a result of the 1984 Conclusions of the Council of Education Ministers, a Working Group of national officials and experts has been set up to work with the Commission on the theme of the Educational Integration of children with disabilities (see VII, 1).

Joint meetings of the Liaison Group on Disability and Working Group on Educational Integration are organized once a year.

VII. NEW AREAS OF INTEREST

VII.1. THE INTEGRATION OF YOUNG HANDICAPPED CHILDREN INTO ORDINARY SCHOOLS

To integrate ... or not to integrate ?

Can children with a physical or mental disability (in some cases both) benefit from being in the same school as non-disabled children ?

Would they not be better off in a special school with teachers more receptive to their particular needs, where they would meet with more understanding and more individual attention; a school better provided with equipment and staff to help them overcome their difficulties ?

It is an open question, and one which arouses fierce passions on both sides - both camps being driven, of course, by concern for the child's best interests.

Great strides have been made in integrating the handicapped child into ordinary schools since the end of the Second World War. Under the influence of progressive legislation, many special schools, in both the state and independent sectors, have seen their pupils "going over" to ordinary schools.

Clearly, the presence of physically handicapped children at school must not lead to a radical reshaping of the goals and values of mainstream education. But most of the problems, both the technical ones of mobility and sometimes psychological adjustments, can be ironed out with the necessary adjustments and assistance.

Mentally impaired children, on the other hand, raise deep-reaching educational problems not posed by the physically disadvantaged. And here, merely to talk in terms of adapting teaching and organizational methods or introducing new educational techniques - such as computer assisted learning - does not always help the educationally subnormal child realise his full potential.

The many faces of integration

The controversy over whether - and if so, how - to educate handicapped children in ordinary schools first emerged in most Community countries during the 1950s. The post-war years wrought profound changes to economic and social conditions, outlooks on life and attitudes to the less fortunate of society. Pity for the handicapped - the overwhelming attitude of past generations - is now regarded as a discredited basis for education.

Today, we recognise that everyone without exception is entitled to an equal opportunity to develop their resources to the fullest extent, and to take their place in society on equal terms with the rest.

So why are the Member States at such widely differing stages in integrating the young handicapped into ordinary school life ?

One reason is that behind the word "integration" are marshalled not only the changing attitudes and beliefs of our societies, but also the more mundane considerations of the transfer of resources, the training and re-training of staff, the adaptation and use of equipment - all sensitive political issues.

The educational de-segregation of handicapped children came about at different times in different countries - each country having its own ideas on how best to achieve integrated education.

The complexity of the various national situations spurred the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, at their 932nd meeting in Luxembourg in June 1984, to discuss the matter at considerable length and to ask the Education Committee to investigate and report back to it on the way the problem was handled in the various Member States, to enable the Commission to make appropriate proposals for action in due course.

What emerges from the Committee's report is that :

Italy, for example, was a very early proponent of educating handicapped children in ordinary schools. As early as the 1950s, arguments were being advanced against the relegation of handicapped children to a marginal role either by segregating them in special state - or privately-run schools or - more crudely - by shutting them away at home deprived of any form of education or preparation for adult life.

The first basic laws providing for integrated education emerged during the 1960s, paving the way for a rash of legislation organizing arrangements at national and regional level.

As things stand, Italy can boast of having achieved successful integration of handicapped children in nursery, primary and lower secondary schools - in the state-educated sector at least.

However, the legislation has not gone so far as to actually abolish special schools altogether, for it is felt that they still have a valuable role to play in meeting particular needs not catered for in ordinary schools.

The principle of integrated education was not legally enshrined until much later in Belgium, where a recent statute has created a virtual "integrationist third estate" in educational terms, with an integrated special education system to act as a bridge between special and mainstream education.

Children with handicaps will in future be able to attend ordinary schools on a part-time or full-time basis without forfeiting their rights to the specialised facilities and guidance provided for children in special schools.

Class teachers in the new system will be required to undergo special training to equip them to deal with the sort of situations that may arise; Schools will have to have appropriate medical, psychological and social welfare facilities available.

The choice, evaluation and necessary adjustments to the curriculum will be made after consultations between parents, psycho-medico-social centres (which have some features in common with community mental health centres), and the ordinary and special schools who will be ensuring that suitable teaching aids are available.

The United Kingdom tackled the problem of integration in a very different way.

A working Party (known as the Warnock Committee after its Chair) was asked in 1974 to undertake a searching review of educational provision for physically disabled and educationally subnormal children with particular reference to the medical support needed to help them adjust to life in society and at work.

They were asked to make suitable recommendations, bearing in mind the need to make the best use of available resources.

It was at once a bold venture and a daunting prospect. A bold venture because a group appointed with the imprimatur of government was being officially commissioned to set its sights at positive welfare policy areas where others had feared to tread or, having trod, had retreated.

A daunting prospect because the multiplicity of approaches which embrace the broad spectrum of concepts and diverse machinery in use throughout the regions of the United Kingdom.

The group drew its work to a successful close in 1978, sparking off a whole series of innovative schemes. British educational and welfare professionals no longer divide children into handicapped and non-handicapped, the first diverted to special schools, the latter

in mainstream education. The view instead is that all children have special educational needs to a greater or lesser degree at some stage during their development. The problem is to meet it with suitable resources which will enable it to be overcome. If that special need is not met, then the system is at fault.

The way ahead

Three countries with three different approaches and three different answers to the same problem.

What is to be done ? Can we, by drawing the experience of these countries together, design "off-the-peg" solutions to fit everyone ?

As we said earlier, you cannot simply throw overboard the decades and more of inherited values which imbue such a crucial stage in our lives as that of education, and one which involves so many people - pupils, parents and teachers most intimately of all.

As in so many other cases, the most rewarding policy in this area will be one which fosters cooperation between Member States.

The report which the Education Committee will shortly submit to the Council of Ministers is destined to provide a launching pad for useful action on the complex path to integration.

W. VAN CAUWENBERGH

VII, 2. THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

1. Even if we limit our definition of New Technologies to 'new applications depending on electrical or electronic devices' their actual contribution to the independent living of disabled people is already astonishing and potential contribution quite revolutionary. There is no exaggeration in using such terms; the only danger is that what new technologies have to offer to disabled people will be underestimated and understated. Owing only to the New Technologies blind people can read print, deaf people can communicate at a distance, the paralysed can be mobile and control their environment. The contribution of "NT" to disabled people is not therefore really at all like their contribution to others; it is something different altogether, operating at a different level of need.
2. Three aspects of the paramount importance of NT for the disabled can be clearly identified :
 - NT's fundamental(not marginal) contributions apply to all categories of disability - physical (including motor and medical), mental and psychiatric.
 - NT's positive influence extends over the whole of life - from 'cradle to grave'.
 - NT can and does contribute to all the major aspects of life : basic functioning, education, training, evaluation, employment, daily living, mobility, environmental control, communication, security.
3. It follows that, although there is plenty of need for work on specific themes (such as "NT and Educational Integration", "NT and visual Impairment" and the like), there is need also for a coordinated approach. Indeed many single applications (in the domain of communications, for example) are equally relevant to formal education, employment and everyday private life.
4. This need for coordination can be clearly seen then in the Commission itself. In no sector more importantly than that of NT is activity vital to the needs of disabled people being undertaken outside Directorate General V and well as inside it. Merely to cite some examples :
 - Medical Research programme on the evaluation of technical aids for the paralysed;
 - Medical Research programme on new technologies and visual impairment;
 - Medical Research programme on aids for the hearing impaired;
 - COST (European Cooperation Programme in Scientific and Technical Research) project concerning telecommunications for the deaf and other disabled people;

- Project concerning electrically enhanced walking device for the paralysed within the Programme of Stimulation of Scientific and Technical cooperation and Exchange;
 - Study on the impact of NT on the production of technical aids within the Programme for the Development and Application of New Technology;
 - Proposal within the ESPRIT programme concerning work stations for the deaf;
 - Proposal within the RACE programme concerning user - friendly terminals for physically and mentally handicapped.
5. It can be imagined that the Bureau has its work cut out keeping up with all these developments! Yet, if the needs of the disabled are not to be marginalised and all hope of effective coordination abandoned, we shall need a Special Activity concentrating on the specific field "NT and Disability" and comprehending all aspects of this. The setting up and financing of this Special Activity will be one of the main tasks to include in the new action programme to be launched in 1988.
6. Meanwhile, important preparatory work is already under way. Three important studies concerning new technologies are among those listed in the Annex (VIII, 4.2) : Feeney on NT and the employment of disabled people, Kitous on Communication Aids and Hansen on NT and the Education of children with special needs. The Commission has moreover supported a number of independent seminars and conferences concerning new technologies and disability, and the number of these is increasing yearly.
7. European collaboration is particularly well-developed in the educational sector. An informal exchange group of experts on NT and Special Education, drawn from all Member States, is planning to launch a News Sheet for wide distribution. The UK Council for Educational Technology, supported by the Commission, is undertaking a project to promote and develop compatibility in educational hardware. A first conference on NT and Special Education organized by the Commission near Manchester in 1985 was well attended and produced interesting results which have been published.
8. The Commission in June 1986 organized with the help of the Lucas Stichting in Hoensbroek, a first symposium of experts concerned with NT and disability in a wide range of policy and service sectors. The results of this intensive encounter, together with assistance which the Commission is receiving from the Technical University of Delft, will make a major contribution to the Bureau's planning of the Special Activity on NT and Disability which will be included as one principal element in the Commission's new programme proposals.
9. Meanwhile it is appropriate if the Commission endeavours to "practice what it preaches". In cooperation with the Personnel Department the Commission is setting up three specialized work stations, based on NT, for blind officials working in its services. One of these officials works in the Bureau itself, and it is intended that this initiative will be a pilot project which will trigger off other developments in the Commission and beyond.

VIII A N N E X E S

Compiled by Jean-Claude LIMPACH

VIII.1. 1985 SUBVENTIONS

VIII, 1.1 Subventions for European Cooperation

A. Activities of Groups Concerned with particular Disabilities

1. European Blind Union : Annual programme comprising projects on employment of telephonists, accessibility and tactile maps.
2. Ligue Braille Belgium : Cassette Europe.
3. Oeuvre Nationale d'Aveugles, Belgium : Braille "Europe".
4. European Community Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf : Setting up of new European Secretariat, November 1985
5. "Euroaction" Breakthrough Trust : Seminar of "Euroaction Group", Brussels, June 85, Youth Camp Europe July '85.
6. International Federation of the Hard of Hearing : "International symposium Education of the Hard of Hearing" Hamburg, 29 - 30 June 1985.
7. Bristol University, European Sign Language Research Centre : Symposium and course for interpreters on sign language at European level.
8. University of Manchester, Department for Education of the Deaf : Seventeenth International Conference on the Education of the Deaf, Manchester, Aug. 1985.
9. Association des Paralysés de France : "Rencontres internationales de jeunes handicapés moteurs" Paris, 9 - 10 November 1985.
10. Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (PHAB) : Work camp at Workenrode Centre, near Arnhem, Netherlands, 27 July - 3 August 1985.
11. International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicaps (ILSPMH) : European Conference, Hamburg, October 1985 in the field of mental handicap.
12. World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) : World Conference of WFMH, Brighton July 1985.
13. World Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus : 1985 International Conference Manchester, 25 - 28 September 1985 on a wide range of subjects, ranging over both medical and social topics, including employment.

14. European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Associations :
European Seminar, "The Role of the Muscular Dystrophy
Association as active and influential consumer organizations"
Djursland (Denmark) 10 - 12 May 1985.

15. Ravenswood village and centre for Special Education :
European Seminar, on Education, Training and Integration
for the Severely Handicapped, Bulmershe near Reading
(United Kingdom), September 1985.

B. Theme-Based Activities Concerning Various Disabilities :

16. Association pour L'Education et L'Insertion des Handicapés :
European Seminar in Social Integration through Employment,
Escassefort, (France) January 1985.

17. Abilympics (Rehabilitation International) : Columbia, 29 Sept -
7 Oct 1985. Participation in world wide "Olympics" of working
capacity.

18. Council for Educational Technology : Seminar on New Information
Technology and the Education and Training of Disabled Persons,
Manchester, June 1985.

19. Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) and
Royal National Institute of the Deaf : European Conference on
Technology and Communication Impairment, London, July 1985.

20. Central Remedial Clinic, Dublin and International Cerebral
Palsy Society : Conference on Communication through Technology
for the Physically Disabled, Dublin, September 1985.

21. European Association for Special Education : Expert Meeting on
New Information Technology and the Education and Training of
Disabled Learners, Copenhagen, November 1985.

22. Cerebral Palsy Overseas and the Hellenic Society for Disabled
Children (ELEPAAP) : Distech Greece Seminar on New Technology
and Severe Disability, Athens, May 1985.

23. Evangelische Fachhochschule für sozialwesen, Reutlingen :
German - Italian exchange project between researchers and
practioners 22 - 27 April 1985 Reutlingen - 28 Mai - 1 June 1985
Arezzo.

24. Association for Teacher Education in Europe : Conference on
Social Education and the Preparation of Young People with
Learning Difficulties for Adult Life, Avery Hill, London
September 1985.

25. University of Liège : Symposium on "Recherche et Intervention
dans les Troubles de Développement du Langage", Liège 18 - 19 Nov
1985.

26. Euregio : Seminar on "Measures to Promote the Integration of Disabled People into Employment and Society" 25 - 26 April 1985 - Reken - Germany.
27. Hamburger Spastikerverein and International Palsy Society : European Conference on Housing for Disabled People - 29 April 1985.
28. Rehabilitation International and RADAR : Conference on Arts and Sports for Disabled People, Madingley, Cambridge, November 1985.
29. Belgian Games for the Motor Handicapped : 1985 European Track and Field Championships for the Disabled. 15 - 18 August 1985 Brussels/Antwerp.
30. Special Olympics Belgium : Sports championship for the mentally handicapped, 16 - 18 May 1985 Woluwe St. Pierre (Belgium)
31. Disabled People International : World Council Meeting of DPI, Nassau Bahamas, September 1985.
32. Bureau Européen de Coordination et Information pour les Personnes Handicapées (BECIPH) : Inaugural Meeting of BCIPH to plan its work programme, Brussels, December 1985.
33. Groupements Interprofessionnels Régionaux pour l'Emploi des Handicapés (GIRPEH) : Seminar and demonstration of films, on Disability and the Media, Joinville near Paris, March 1985.
34. Deutscher Vereinigung für Rehabilitation : Second European Conference on Research in Rehabilitation Düsseldorf, November 1985.
35. College of Occupational Therapists, U.K. : Second European conference of Occupational Therapists, London, July 1985.
36. Cerebral Palsy Overseas : Seminar on Team Dynamics for the Third World, Bonn, April 1985.
- C. Special Programme of Exchange Activities for Disabled Young People and Their Helpers :
=====
37. Eurotour
38. Netherlands "Waterland" projects
39. Integrated Work-Camp
40. Seminar on International Youth Year

41. Seminar on Travel Help Scheme
42. Course on Communication Systems for Young People with autism and severe communication systems
43. Communication, Music and Movement for Severely Disabled
44. Evaluation of the Mobility International Europrogramme to date
45. International Week for Retarded Young People and their Friends
46. Creatvie Arts for visually handicapped and other Young People
47. Outreach visits

D. Activities in Support of European Community Programmes

In the Context of the Handynet Project

48. Lucas Stichting, Hoensbroeck (Netherlands): "Handynet" project the prepare of a common record system for the data base on technical aids ("Handyaids" module).

E. In the Context of the District Projects

49. Genk - Hasselt District Project : District Project Leaders Seminar and visit to the Genk-Hasselt district, 6-8 May, Hasselt.
50. Berlin District Project : District Evaluation Seminar and visit to the Berlin-Spandau district.
51. Liège District Project : Information visit at the Commission of a group of those responsible for the press and the information - 4-5 July 1985.
52. Montpellier District Project : District Seminar on the "Integration of Disabled People", Montpellier 21-25 October 1985.

1.2. Grants for Housing Projects

1. Training for Life Project UK-Witney, Oxon, U.K.: provision of accommodation in three maisonettes, in which mentally handicapped people will be trained to use the normal facilities available.
2. Lebenshilfe für geistig Behinderte, Bamberg, Germany: reconstruction and adaptation of a building, to provide housing accommodation for 8 mentally and physically handicapped.
3. La Passerelle, a.s.b.l., Hannut, Belgium : reconstruction and adaptation of a building, to provide accommodation for 7 mentally and/or physically handicapped.
4. La Ligue H.M.C., Luxemburg: reconstruction and division of a building into 3 apartments for 15 mentally and cerebral handicapped.
5. Baldoyle Hospital Trust Fund Committee : new building, as an extension of existing structures of the hospital complex, to provide living accommodation for physically and mildly mentally handicapped children.
6. Boligselskabet Lejerbo, København, Denmark: Building and equipment of 7 flats for physically young handicapped, as part of an apartment block containing 35 dwellings.
7. Ter Wilgen, v.z.w., Kuisbergen, Belgium: accelerated redemption of a bank loan for housing accommodation, to enable the v.z.w. to reconstruct the administrative building and to construct a training and activity center.
8. Kath. Siedlungs- und Wohnungsbauwerk, München, Germany: building of 4 bungalows for families with a physically handicapped member.
9. De Zypse v.z.w., Kortrijk, Belgium : rebuilding of three dwellings to provide accommodation for 6-8 Mentally handicapped.
10. Société Coopérative de Locataires Germinal, Bruxelles, Belgium: provision of 12 dwellings, adapted to the needs of severely handicapped.
11. Cleveland County Council, Middlesbrough, U.K.: adaptation of 13 dwellings for families with a handicapped member.
12. Essex County Council, Chelmsford, Essex, U.K.: adaptation and modernizing a building providing residential care for physically handicapped.
13. Stichting Crossroads Nderland, Heemstede, Netherlands : setting up of 3 new Crossroads schemes
14. Association la Chrysalide, Marseille, France : provision of 15 apartments, for mentally handicapped.

15. Handicap Physique et Logement, Liège, Belgium : adaptation of 8 "Studios" for physically handicapped.
16. Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Nr. Horsham, U.K. : adaptation of an existing house to provide half way housing accommodation for 7 disabled young adults.
17. Le Foyer a.s.b.l., Bruxelles, Belgium : reconstruction and adaptation of a building into 3 appartments for 3 mildly mentally handicapped young women.
18. La Résidence Lennox, Ottignies, Belgium : extension of an existing home for severely handicapped and epileptics.
19. Gwent County Council, Owmbraw, Gwent, U.K. : conversion of 2 former children's homes into homes for 14 mentally handicapped persons.

VIII, 2. INFORMATION NOTES

Valid until the end of 1986 only.

VIII, 2.1. Subventions for European cooperation.

1. As part of its action programme to promote the social integration of disabled people in the European Community, the Commission is able to offer subventions to support activities of European cooperation which advance the social integration and autonomy of people with disabilities.
2. The objective of this element in the Commission's programme is to encourage and facilitate the collaboration at European level of bodies concerned with the social integration of disabled people, notably in order to promote innovation, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of good practice in this field.
3. The Projects will be accorded support according to these criteria :

- Criteria of eligibility

- a) Proposals may concern any kind of encounter or development project, or any other activity involving disabled people, excluding however studies or basic research;
- b) Activities taking place simply in one country are not eligible. Proposals must involve an active European cooperation, i.e. collaboration between individuals or bodies in three or more Member States (exceptionally two Member States if the cooperation has a special value);
- c) The activity must be entirely or largely aimed to promote at least one aspect of the social integration and autonomy of disabled people;
- d) The activity must take place in the European Community and the majority of the participants must be from European Community countries.

- Criteria of priority

Priority will be given to proposals which :

- a) Directly involve disabled children, young people or adults whether in the organization of the activity or in participation or both;
- b) Either are innovatory in character (i.e., explore new ways of solving old problems), or respond to new problems,

- c) Can demonstrate their ability to disseminate the results of the activity.
4. Beneficiaries under the scheme may be independent associations, organizations or centres concerned partly or wholly with disability questions, or establishments involved in the teaching, training or rehabilitation of the disabled. Events organized by or supported by local authorities are also eligible.
5. Subventions are attributable to the running costs of specific actions (e.g. conferences, seminars, encounters, training sessions or collaborative projects). There are no stipulations as to the sources of any other grants awarded to the event. The level of contribution will be assessed according to need (i.e. availability of other resources), to the magnitude of the event and to its priority value. Contributions are not made to the normal or general functioning costs of the organizations or centres concerned.
6. Submissions should be made directly to :

The Bureau for Action in Favour
of Disabled People
Directorate-General for Employment,
Social Affairs and Education
Commission of the European Communities
200 rue de la Loi

1049 BRUSSELS

Tel. Brussels 235.50.39 or 235.78.97

No application form is needed. Promoters are requested to make their submissions in the form of a brief letter (in which the request for support is explicitly made), with two annexes. The first of these should present the outline programme of the event. The second should set out the total estimated budget, with an estimate also of other sources of revenue and an indication of the amount sought by way of grant from the Commission. Promoters are recommended to discuss possibilities informally with the Bureau (by letter or telephone) before preparing their final submission.

7. Promoters are recommended to submit proposals at least 6 months before the event, or the start of the project, concerned.

VIII, 2.2 Grants for Housing Projects

Introduction

The European Community, in working towards the full social integration of the handicapped, promotes the improvement of their housing conditions as an essential pre-requisite to the successful achievement of this aim. The basic object is to make more housing available, suitable to meet the needs of the handicapped, including ease of access and use, links with the public services and, where appropriate, workplaces or other centres of activity. Pilot schemes, providing model solutions to specific challenges, are supported with a view to establishing points of reference for new initiatives elsewhere.

The EEC contribution is in the form of a non-repayable grant.

Eligibility of projects

Projects will be considered for assistance only when all necessary approvals and consents have been obtained, a viable financing plan (apart from a possible Commission contribution) has been produced, and work can start.

For the purposes of eligibility for assistance, handicapped persons include those with physical or sensory disabilities those who are mentally handicapped or retarded, and those who have, or have had, disorders of a psychotic or other psychological kind.

Since the basic objective is to increase the supply of suitable housing available to the handicapped, financial assistance can be provided towards:

- the construction of new and the adaptation of existing accommodation, specially designed for the handicapped (or for a particular type of handicap);
- the provision of technical aids to make accommodation usable by the handicapped;
- the launching of information or housing advisory services for the handicapped;
- the evaluation of the results of pilot projects and measures contributing to their dissemination.

Priorities

1. The attention of applicants is drawn to the fact that the Commission's resources available for improving the housing conditions of the handicapped are very limited, and are generally considerably less than the demand. Applicants

are, therefore, advised to bear this in mind and to note that the Commission's contribution cannot be more than a very limited sum, intended to balance the budget for the project in question.

2. Financial viability, both in terms of capital and running costs, has to be guaranteed by national or local financial commitment.

The Commission reserves the right:

- to select schemes with a view to ensuring a reasonably balanced distribution of funds over target groups and Member States;
- in a given budget year, to select a programme of schemes built around a specific priority theme.

Financing

Although no official ceiling for a Commission financial contribution has been fixed, its modest resources make it necessary to limit this contribution. In principle, the Commission gives assistance only once for the same project. In consequence, applicants are advised to calculate all costs in advance.

Method of application

The application should include :

- (a) the prescribed application form;
- (b) a complete financial survey for the scheme;

and should be made directly to :

The Commission of the European Communities
Directorate-General V.C.3.
200 rue de la Loi
B- 1049 BRUSSELS

In order to facilitate dealing with applications and avoiding delays, applicants are requested to be certain that the application form and financial statement are fully completed.

It is to the applicant's advantage to submit a complete application as early as possible in the year in which financial assistance is required.

Commission procedures

Applicants should note that the Commission's budget year corresponds to the calendar year.

Normally, projects will be selected in two phases, the first, after 1 March, the second after 1 September. In all cases where applications are accepted for inclusion in the Commission's programme, there is a commitment before the end of the budgetary year.

Commitment is normally followed by the signature of a contract between the Commission and the body promoting the pilot project, which is being financially assisted. The intervals at which payments of grant are to be made are stipulated in the contract. A first payment is normally contingent on the submission of a report. Such reports will have to:

- provide a certified statement as to the use of the Commission's grant;
- assess the effectiveness of the project in meeting its objectives;
- indicate positive and negative features of the building;
- give an interim assessment of the aspect of social integration;
- indicate operational costs, based on experience;
- where appropriate:
 - . provide statements and supporting vouchers by qualified experts (e.g. architects);
 - . indicate known cases of inspiration of other developments.

All further communication should be directed to :

Commission of the European Communities,
Attention : Mr. P.E. DAUNT, DG V.C.3.
200 rue de la Loi,
B - 1049 BRUSSELS

Tel.: (2) 235-50-39

If you feel that you may qualify for EEC assistance, we shall be happy to provide you with the necessary forms on application.

VIII, 3 NETWORK LISTS

VIII, 3.1 The Rehabilitation Centres

BELGIQUE - BELGIE

Dienst voor Begeleiding en Opleiding
van minder-validen
Pasteurlaan 2
B - 9000 GENT

Centre National de Formation
et d'Etudes Pédagogiques
Rue du Viaduc 133
B - 1040 BRUXELLES

Centre de Réadaptation au Travail
Route de Dinant 119
B - 4154 TINLOT

Centre de Réadaptation Fonctionnelle
Clinique Reine Fabiola
Avenue du Centenaire 73
B - 6080 MONTIGNIES S/ SAMBRE

DENMARK

Optraeninginstitutet ved
Rigshospitalet
Tagensvej 22
DK - 2200 KØBENHAVN N

Handvaerkskolen
Borgervaenget 7
DK - 2100 KØBENHAVN Ø

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher
Berufsförderungswerke
Berufsförderungswerk Frankfurt
Huizenerstr. 60
D - 6368 BAD-VILBEL

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der
Werkstätten für Behinderte e.V.
Sonnemannstrasse 5
D - 6000 FRANKFURT A.M.1.

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND (Cont.)

Josefs-Gesellschaft e.V.
Kath. Träger von Einrichtungen zur
Rehabilitation Körperbehinderter
Alarichstrasse 40
Postfach 210626
D - 5000 KOLN 21

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der
Rehabilitationseinrichtungen
der II Phase
Neurologisches Rehabilitations-
zentrum Godeshöhe
Waldstr. 2-10
D - 5300 BONN 2

GREECE

National Institut for Rehabilitation
of the Handicapped
Ethniko Idryma Apokatastases
Anaperon Agioi Anargyroi
GR - ATHENS

Idryma "Theotocos"
Nea Liossia - Attikis
GR - ATHENS

FRANCE

Centre de Rééducation et de
Perfectionnement Professionnel
Suzanne Masson
39 Av. du Dr. Arnold Netter
F - 75012 PARIS

Centre de Réadaptation
Professionnelle et Fonctionnelle
Nanteau-sur-Lunain
Boite Postale 34
F - 77792 NEMOURS CEDEX

FRANCE (cont.d)

Centre de Réadaptation
57 Rue Albert Camus
F - 68093 MULHOUSE CEDEX

A.F.P.A.
Service Mission de Coordination
des Interventions Psycho-techniques
13 Place de Williers
F - 93108 MONTREUIL-SOUS-BOIS

IRELAND

Cork Polio and General After-Care
Association
Bonnington
Montenotte
IRL-CORK

Rehabilitation Institute
Roslyn Park
Sandymount
IRL - DUBLIN 4

Service - ANCO
P.O. Box 456
27-33 Upper Baggot Street
IRL - DUBLIN 4

ITALIA

Centro Professionale "Don Calabria"
Via Roveggia 41
I - 37100 VERONA

Centro di Addestramento
Professionale del "Comitato
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Employment Rehabilitation Centre
Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre
Vincent Drive
UK - BIRMINGHAM B15 2TD

Finchale Training College for
Disabled
UK - DURHAM PH1 5RX

Training Services Agency Skillcentre
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VIII, 3.2 The District Projects

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VIII, 3.3 The European and International Non-Governmental Organisations

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Action Européenne des Handicapés
Wurzerstrasse 2/4
D - 5300 BONN 2

L'ACTION EUROPEENNE DES HANDICAPES
Pasmolenstraat, 23
B - 2800 MECHELEN

A.I.A.E.
Association Internationale Autisme Europe
c/o A.P.E.P.
1a Avenue du Capricorne
B - 1200 BRUXELLES

C.O.F.A.C.E.
Confédération des Organisations Familiales
de la Communauté Européenne
rue de Londres 17
B - 1050 BRUXELLES

D.P.I.
Disabled People's International
Box 36033
S - 10071 STOCKHOLM

E.B.U.
European Blind Union
Via Borgognona 38
I - 00187 ROMA

E.A.S.E.
European Association for Special Education
Psycho-Medisch-Sociaal Centrum
Marialand 27
B - 9000 GENT

E.A.M.D.A.
European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Associations
Nattrass House
35 Macauley Road
UK - LONDON SW4 098

EUROLINK AGE
Age Concern England
Bernard Sunley House
60 Pitcairn Road
UK - MITCHAM, SURREY CR 4 3LL

F.I.M.I.T.I.C.
Fédération Internationale Mutilés
Invalides du Travail et Invalides Civils
Reichsbund
Auslandsreferat
Beethovenallee 56/58
D - 5300 BONN 2

I.C.P.S.
International Cerebral Palsy Society
5a Netherhall Gardens
UK - LONDON NW3 5RN

I.B.E.
The International Bureau for Epilepsy,
c/o Instituut voor Epilepsie Bestrijding
Postbus 21
NL - 2100 AA HEEMSTEDE

I.F.M.S.S.
International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies
Expedier House,
Hinhead
UK - SURREY GU26 6TJ

I.L.S.M.H.
International League of Societies for Persons with
Mental Handicap
Avenue Louise 248 Boîte 17
B - 1050 BRUXELLES

I.F.H.S.B.
International Federation for Hydrocephalus and
Spina Bifida
22 Upper Woburn Place
UK - LONDON WC1H 0EP

I.F.H.O.H.
International Federation of the Hard of Hearing
Pirolkamp 18
D - 2000 HAMBURG

MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL
62 Union Street
UK - LONDON SE1 1TD

R.I.
Rehabilitation International
c/o Palais des Expositions
Avenue de l'Europe 21
B - 6000 CHARLEROI

VOLONTEUROPE
c/o L. HOEKENDIJK
Lindelaan 20
NL - 1405 AK BUSSUM

W.F.D.
World Federation of the Deaf
European Community Regional Secretariat
c/o The British Deaf Association
38 Victoria Place
UK - CARLISLE CA1 1HU

W.F.M.H.
World Federation for Mental Health
1021 Prince Street
Alexandria
Virginia 22314
U.S.A.

W.V.F.
World Veterans Federation
"Kintyre"
Beechgrove Drive 28
BELFAST BT6 ONW
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VIII, 3.4 The Rehabilitation International European Secretariats

BELGIQUE

Association Nationale d'Assistance aux
Handicapés
c/o Palais des Expositions
Avenue de l'Europe 21
B - CHARLEROI

DANMARK

Rehabilitation International Denmark
7 Borgervaenget
DK - 2100 COPENHAGEN 0

BUNDESREPUBLIK
DEUTSCHLAND

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Rehabilitation
Eysseneckstrasse, 55
D - 6000 FRANKFURT/MAIN 1

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Hellenic Society for Disabled Children
16 Kononos Street
GR - 116 34 ATHENS

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National Institute of Social Services (INSERSO)
Ministry of Labour, Health & Social Security
Maria de Guzman 52
SP - 28003 MADRID

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Oude Gracht 136, Postbus 169
NL - 3500 AD UTRECHT

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P - 1000 LISBON

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Royal Association for Disability and
Rehabilitation (RADAR)
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GB - LONDON W1N 8AB

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VIII, 4 GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

VIII, 4.1 Policy Documents

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sequence</u>
COUNCIL RESOLUTION of 21 January '74 concerning a social action program	12.02.1974	C 13/1 (*)
COUNCIL RESOLUTION of 27 June 1974 establishing the initial Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons	09.07.1974	C 80/30 (*)
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons - Elimination of Architectural Barriers to their Mobility	25.07.1975	COM (75) 432
REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL on the Initial Community Action Programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons (Period 1974 - 1979)	26.10.1979	COM (79) 572
COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS concerning the further Implementation of the Initial Community Action Programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons	09.06.1980	
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL Information on Pilot Housing Actions to promote the Social Integration of Handicapped Persons and Migrant Workers	09.09.1980	COM (80) 491
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT :RESOLUTION on the motions for resolutions concerning the economic, social and vocational integration of disabled people in the European Community (11.03.1981)	06.04.1981	C 77/27 (*)
(*) <u>Official Journal of the E.C.</u>		

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sequence</u>
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE : OPINION on the situation and problems of the handicapped (03.07.1981)	10.09.1981	C 230/38 (*)
I COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES meeting within the Council of 21 December 1981 on the social integration of handicapped people	31.12.1981	C 347 (*)
II COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL. The social integra- tion of disabled people - a frame- work for the development of Community action (29.10.1981)		
COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS concerning the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools	04.06.1984	
MEMORANDUM OF THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL concerning the employment of disabled people in the European Community	24.01.1986	COM (86) 9
Draft COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the employment of disabled people in the European Community		

(*) Official Journal of the E.C.

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ABEL-SMITH B - Social security provision for the longer term disabled in eight countries of the European Community (a case study) - 1981 - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

ALBEDA W. - Centre européen Travail et Société, NE Maastricht - Disabled people and their employment - 1985 - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

ALBERS J. - BOISSEAU J. - DR. SOMMERVILLE J.G. - Comparative study on the rehabilitation of handicapped persons in the countries of the Community. Legal, administrative and technical aspects. Volume I-II-III (Interim edition) - 1974 - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

DR. CROXEN M. - Overview disability and employment. 1984 - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INTO CONSUMER AFFAIRS (ERICA) - U.K. London WC2N 6 DS Transport for the disabled, door to door transport systems. Investigation of the relevant schemes in Member States of the EEC, Sweden and the United States. 1982 - (Versions DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - NE)

FEENEY R.J. - Institute for Consumer Ergonomics, University of Technology Loughborough. A functional assessment of disabled workers in the light of task demands of new micro-electronic devices. Volume I - II - III 1983 - (Version EN - abstracts FR)

FORD B. - Interprofessional support for younger handicapped people - 1983 - (Version EN)

HANSEN J. - Teaching and training the handicapped through the new information technology. Computeraided special education - 1984 - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

JØRGENSEN S. - Special education in the European Community - Study 1980 nr. 11 - (Versions DA - DE - EN - FR - IT - NE)

KITOUS B. - Communication facilities for the disabled - Technical aids. Personal needs, existing means, possible developments - 1982 - (Versions DE - EN - FR - IT - NE - GR)

KODITZ V. - The role of independent bodies and organizations in relation to the transition of handicapped persons from school to working life. Handbook on the situation in the Member States of the European Community - 1985 - (Versions EN - FR)

MANGIN G. - The handicapped and their employment - Statistical study of the situation in the Member States of the European Communities - 1983 - (Versions DE - EN - FR - IT)

NATIONAL BUREAU FOR HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, London SW97AA - European Students with disabilities. (The access of disabled students to and within establishments and programmes of post-compulsory education; a survey of the situation in the Member States of the European Community) 1986 - (Versions DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - NE)

OLIVIER P. - Analysis of current needs and initiatives in the field of adaptation of vocational training for young handicapped people to the new employment realities. (Final report - November 1984) - (Versions DE - EN - FR)

ROUAULT G.Y. - The handicapped and their employment. A statistical study of the situation in the Member States of the European Communities - 1978 (Versions DE - EN - FR)

VOGEL-POLSKI E. (Centre de Sociologie du Droit Social) Université Libre de Bruxelles - The economic integration of the disabled : an analysis of measures and trends in Member States - 1984 - (Versions EN - FR)

VORDEREGGER J.R. - VERPLANKE C.J. - Consumentenbond, NL - 2521 CV
The Hague - Travel and the disabled - Study of the problems and provisions - 1985 - (Versions DA - DE - GR - EN - ES - FR - IT - NE - PT)

WADDINGTON P. - International Union of Local Authorities - Local Services for Disabled people - A European Community Guide.
(Versions DA - DE - GR - EN - FR - IT - NE)

YELDING D. - European Research into Consumer Affairs (ERICA) - UK - London WC2N 6 DS. - Everyday mobility for disabled people. Private cars, pedestrian facilities, adaptation of existing public service vehicles 1985 (Versions DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - NE).

VIII, 4.3. Articles in Social Europe

Nr. 1/84	Employment and the Social Integration of the Handicapped
Nr. 1/85	The Access of Young Disabled People to Post-Compulsory Education
Nr. 3/85	The Mobility Needs of Disabled People
Nr. 1/86	Employment of the Handicapped
Nr. 2/86	Social Security and Disability

Special Issue / 83	Community Action on Behalf of the Handicapped
Special Issue / 83	Disability and Employment - an overview study done by Dr. Mary Croxen
Special Issue / 83	The New Technologies - Educating and Training the Handicapped - Summary of a study

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Social Europe — Supplement
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